

Bomb hurled at Cyprus base

NICOSIA (AP) — Unknown assailants in a speeding car tossed three bombs at the entrance to the British air base of Akrotiri in southwest Cyprus on Sunday, state-run Cyprus Television reported. Immediately after the attack people in the area reported hearing a fusillade of shots, but there have been no reports of casualties, the television station added in its evening news bulletin. "Yes, there has been an incident. There will be a statement later," Major Gordon Birdwood, the official spokesman of the British sovereign bases in Cyprus, said when contacted by telephone from Nicosia. A police spokesman who cannot be identified under government regulations, said that police were waiting for more information from the British bases, and did not know more than the television reports.

Jordan Times

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Cabinet okays accord with Hunt Oil

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet on Sunday approved an agreement between Jordan and the U.S. Hunt Oil company under which the company will explore for oil in the southern Al Jafr area of the Kingdom. The seven-year exploration agreement covers an area of 8,800 kilometres and the company is expected to spend about \$20 million on the operations, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. Hunt Oil is the second company to win an oil production-sharing agreement in Jordan this year. Last March Jordan and Amoco Jordan Petroleum signed a seven-and-a-half year agreement under which Amoco will explore for oil in 10,950 square kilometres of Jordanian territory. Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib was quoted by the Middle East Economic Survey magazine last week as saying that Jordan's exploration efforts were advancing "in line with a three-pronged strategy" aimed at developing the Hamzeh oilfield at Azraq.

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Rifai congratulates Italian premier

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Sunday sent a cable to his Italian counterpart Bettino Craxi congratulating him on the occasion of forming a new government. Mr. Rifai wished Mr. Craxi and the Italian people success and prosperity. Mr. Rifai also expressed Jordan's keen interest in maintaining and developing good relations with Italy in the interest of both countries.

Cabinet amends law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Sunday endorsed amendments to the Municipalities Law to allow heads of a municipal and village councils to keep receiving their pension if they retire in addition to the salary they receive in the new positions. The Cabinet also endorsed a number of draft laws amending regulations of the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation and the Institute of Public Administration.

Canary Islands president arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — The President of the Autonomous territory of the Spanish Canary Islands, Jeronimo Saez, arrived in Amman on Sunday at the head of an official delegation to Jordan. During his six-day visit, Mr. Saez is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and other Jordanian officials. The 2,807-square-mile Canary Islands territory is made up of the islands of Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote.

Supply official leaves for Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Supply Under-Secretary Abdullah Al Hawadeh left Amman Sunday for Damascus on a visit expected to last several days. He will hold talks with Syrian officials on purchasing Syrian cereals for Jordan. Mr. Hawadeh, who is accompanied by a delegation of three members, is expected to buy consignments of lentils and wheat.

Sudanese protest Hassan-Peres meeting

KHARTOUM (R) — Thousands of students marched through Khartoum on Sunday demanding that Sudan break diplomatic relations with Morocco over last month's talks between King Hassan and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Addressing the demonstrators, Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said: "Sudan condemns this individualistic behaviour of King Hassan." The students, who branded the Moroccan monarch "an agent and a traitor," delivered a note to cabinet headquarters urging a break in ties with Morocco. They handed a separate protest note to the Moroccan embassy. Mr. Mahdi previously had described the Hassan-Peres meeting as "surprising and pointless," and said it contravened Arab solidarity.

King reaffirms Jordan's total support for Iraq

His Majesty pledges complete Jordanian commitment to deter Iranian aggression

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday expressed Jordan's total support for Iraq's call for an end to its almost six-year-old war with Iran and peace between the two neighbours and pledged that the Kingdom would remain steadfast in its unwavering support for the Iraqi people in their defence of the Arab Homeland.

In a message he sent to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who made the call on Saturday, the King expressed hope that the Iraqi appeal for peace would receive an immediate and favourable response from the Iranian leadership for the sake of safeguarding the interests of all parties.

The Iraqi president made the call in an open message broadcast on the Iraqi media. Warning the Iranians of a "holocaust" if they choose to pursue their so-called "final offensive" against Iraq and reaffirming the Iraqi people's determination not to allow any Iranian to enter Iraqi territory, President Hussein said peace was the only option left for Tehran.

President Hussein spelled out the following conditions for peace: — A complete unconditional withdrawal to the international

border; — A complete exchange of prisoners of war; — A peace treaty; and — A mutual pledge by both sides to refrain from interference in each other's internal affairs.

He also proposed that, instead of fighting, Iran and Iraq together be a "positive" element for peace and stability in the Gulf region. In his message to President Hussein, the King said the Iraqi people and army fought hard in defence of the Arab Homeland, Arab dignity and honour.

"The Iraqi people will continue to embody the bravery, high morals and values, determination and sacrifice characterising the Arab Nation in the course of their struggle to defend Iraq and all sacred parts of the Arab Homeland, Arab rights and Arab identity," the King said.

"As we stand along the longest confrontation line with the Arab Nation's common enemy, we do realise that aggression on our part of the Arab Nation is no different from that being directed against Iraq over the past six years," he said.

"Jordan is fully confident that Iraq can repel aggression, and it will continue to support the Iraqi people with all its power and human and material resources and will stand by Iraq under any circumstances in the face of enemy ambitions and all evil and harmful intentions directed against the Arab Nation on both fronts," the King's message said. "If the Iraqi leadership persisted in its drive to pursue aggression and continued the war, and if matters worsened and came to a head you will find Jordan totally committed to your side with all our means and power, not because Iraq is incapable of repelling aggression and confronting the enemy in defence of the nation, but out of a feeling of performing our sacred duty and in expression of our absolute faith of the unity of our land and our common destiny," King Hussein said.

The King wished the Iraqi president success in the leadership of his country towards victory and expressed his appreciation and affection to all the Iraqi people.

Moves by Gemayel and Karami revive hopes for peace dialogue

BEIRUT (R) — Peace moves by Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami raised hopes on Sunday for resumed efforts to end civil war, but snipers kept shut the one road between Beirut's two sectors.

Security sources said rival militiamen traded mortar fire across the city's "green line" front Saturday night, and snipers stopped even pedestrians from venturing over the sole crossing for a fifth straight day. No casualties were reported.

Moves to end Lebanon's 11-year conflict have marked time since January, when Mr. Gemayel declined to support a Syrian-mediated peace pact that would have given Muslims more power.

In a bid to restart dialogue Mr. Gemayel on Friday urged Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to help Lebanon end strife that has cost at least 100,000 lives.

He also called for parliament to meet in special session with the cabinet and himself to discuss any

proposals to reconcile warring factions.

Mr. Karami, a Sunni Muslim, countered by suggesting that a committee of "all forces, parties and sects" be convened to draft a peace pact within a month. He said Mr. Gemayel and his own government should resign if this failed to produce a solution.

Two Christian cabinet ministers welcomed Mr. Karami's remarks as positive and a good sign.

"Such suggestions are positive and do not constitute a demand for the president's resignation," Health Minister Joseph Al Hashem, close to Mr. Gemayel, said of Mr. Karami's remarks.

Finance Minister Camille Chamoun, a former president bitterly opposed to Syria's role in Lebanon, said: "The initiative is a good sign and everyone should work for its success, despite certain difficulties."

In his remarks, however, Mr. Karami showed no sign that he would work in tandem with Mr. Gemayel, dismissing the Christian president's olive branch as

"beautiful talk."

Mr. Gemayel's proposals are due to be considered on Tuesday by a mainly-Muslim committee of pro-Syrian government ministers, headed by Mr. Karami.

Syria, angered by Mr. Gemayel's lack of support for previous peace efforts, has yet to react formally to his speech.

The As Safir newspaper said Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, returned to west Beirut from Syria Saturday night to resume work on a Syrian-backed security crackdown.

The operation has cleared dozens of gunmen from streets since Syrian troops, security agents and military observers arrived on July 4 to back Lebanese police and troops.

The crackdown is due to be extended to Beirut's teeming southern suburbs, where radical militiamen hold sway. No date for the move has been fixed.

Beirut hospitals wage war on suffering, page 2

Tutu stresses Japanese role in sanctions

TOKYO (R) — Japan's volume of trade with South Africa gives it a crucial role in the issue of sanctions, Bishop Desmond Tutu was quoted on Sunday as saying.

Bishop Tutu, the Anglican bishop of Johannesburg, was speaking to Wasuke Miyake director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, after arriving in Tokyo on Saturday.

He said he told Mr. Miyake that nations should take a moral stand on the issue rather than wait for others to take the lead. Kyodo news service reported.

Mr. Miyake replied that Japan wanted a concerted policy with other members of the international community on economic sanctions against Pretoria, the report said.

Bishop Tutu was due to visit Hiroshima on Wednesday for events marking the 41st anniversary of the atomic-bombing of the city.

Commonwealth leaders open summit on sanctions

LONDON (R) — A crucial Commonwealth summit on South Africa opened in London on Sunday as the United States consulted some of its European allies on possible measures to be taken if Pretoria refuses to modify its policies.

The seven-nation Commonwealth summit got under way after one of the participants, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, made a conciliatory gesture towards Britain, apparently alone in opposing sanctions against South Africa.

Mr. Kaunda told a news conference that Commonwealth sanctions should be coordinated with measures being considered by other countries. He proposed a three-member coordinating committee but said Britain should be excluded because it opposes sanctions.

Analysts said that his proposal, if accepted by the summit, would relieve the need for the meeting to take a decision on sanctions.

Apart from Britain and Zambia other countries attending the summit are Australia, Bahamas, Canada, India and Zimbabwe. Meanwhile in Bonn a senior U.S. government official said that the United States and some of its

European allies are consulting on what measures to take against South Africa if it fails to respond to Western pressure to change.

The official, who declined to be identified, said the talks covered the type of punitive steps which could be adopted against Pretoria, if it continues to reject dialogue with black leaders and focused on possible coordination between U.S. and European moves.

"President Reagan has not said he rules out further steps (against South Africa) and we are looking ourselves at further possible measures," the official said.

"Coordination (with the Europeans) could mean the timing of a decision or the substance of that decision," the official added.

The consultations had been going on in the past few days between U.S. and European officials and would continue.

The official said possible measures could include a ban on landing rights for South African planes, a ban on investments in the country and restrictions on visas for South African citizens.

In Johannesburg, South Africans were stoically awaiting the outcome of the Commonwealth summit.

Rifai, Dudin continue talks with W. Bank leaders on 5-year plan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin on Sunday continued a series of meetings with leaders from the West Bank on Jordan's five-year development plans for the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Rifai received at his office Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij and held talks with him in a meeting attended by Dr. Dudin, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported. The agency did not give details of the discussions but it was believed that the meeting dealt with the Kingdom's \$1.3 billion five-year plan to support development projects in the occupied territories.

Dr. Dudin met five West Bank leaders on Saturday. They included Mr. Freij, former Mayor of Gaza, and Mr. Hafez Abdul Nabi, Fayyad Jarrar and Musa Abu Ghosh — deputies

in the Lower House representing the constituencies of Hebron, Jenin and Ramallah respectively. Petra said discussions during the meetings covered issues related to municipalities in the West Bank and Gaza and ways and means to strengthen the steadfastness of the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation.

On Sunday, Dr. Dudin held talks with Nablus Deputy Tahseen Al Faris, Petra reported.

Dr. Dudin and Mr. Faris, who was elected to the Lower House in November 1985, reviewed problems facing the citizens of Nablus and means to alleviate their suffering under Israeli rule.

The intensified meetings between ministers and leaders from the occupied territories follow the announcement late last month of Jordan's programmes to help development projects to help the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza. The plans were released by the Ministry of

Shawwa returns to Gaza and praises Jordanian help to occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Mayor of Gaza Rashad Al Shawwa returned to his city on Sunday at the end of his visit to Amman. He was accorded an enthusiastic welcome by his people upon arrival in Gaza.

Upon arriving at his home in the city, Mr. Shawwa made the following statement to Visnews Television network:

"I met with responsible people in Jordan and felt that all were cooperative and wanted to help the occupied territories, including Gaza and the West Bank. I feel they have been doing a lot to help the steadfastness of the people by various projects. The PLO is our representative, but being so they should abide by our demands and needs in the occupied territories and not to dictate what they want us to do. I think I have the overwhelming support of the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and we ask the PLO, if being our representative, to accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 according to which no land can be annexed by force, thus freeing the Gaza Strip and the West Bank from Israeli occupation and bringing them back to Arab sovereignty."

In a statement to Israel Radio, Mr. Shawwa said most people in the occupied territories wanted a confederation with Jordan. "The majority of residents of the occupied territories, including the Gaza Strip, want a confederation with Jordan," Mr. Shawwa told Israel Radio.

Mr. Shawwa's remarks echoed a statement made by another

prominent figure from the West Bank who said on Saturday that the "silent majority" of Palestinians in the occupied territories favoured Jordan's efforts to end the Israeli occupation.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij also estimated the "silent majority" of the West Bankers and Gazans at 1,500,000.

In reply to a question by the Jordan Times, Mr. Freij said: "They (the majority) do not dare to voice their opinion since they are subject to intellectual oppression by various groups." He refused to elaborate.

Obviously he was referring to radical Palestinian groups which were reported to have sent threats of death to West Bank Palestinian leaders who spoke out in favour of a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Threats were also sent to three Palestinian nominees who were ready to accept appointments as mayors of three West Bank cities — Hebron, Ramallah and Al Bireh. Municipal affairs of these three cities are administered by Israeli military officials.

Iranians rocket 2nd tanker in 3 days

BAHRAIN (AP) — A Liberian-registered tanker was rocketed on Sunday by an Iranian helicopter in the Gulf waters 110 kilometres southwest from the Straits of Hormuz, Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported.

The 76,297-tonne Mercedes was hit in the accommodations quarters and a small fire that broke out was brought under control, said the executives.

No injuries were reported among the crew, they said. They had no more details.

It was the second tanker attacked by Iranian warplanes in the southern neutral sector of the Gulf waters since Friday.

The Iranian attacks are in retaliation for the Iraqi air and sea blockade around their vital Kharg Island oil terminal in the northeastern reaches of the Gulf waters.

Scores of oil tankers and commercial vessels of various nationalities have been crippled by both sides in the so-called tanker war.

The executives said the Iranian helicopter flew out from the Iranian island of Jazirat Bu Musa to strike at the Mercedes as it was sailing about 16 kilometres away.

The attack occurred off the emirates of Umm Al Quwain.

The 274,629-tonne Greek supertanker Ethnik was strafed on Friday by an Iranian air force Phantom jet fighter off Qatar, about 250 kilometres westwards from where the Mercedes was struck.

Murphy flies to Israel to discuss Taba dispute

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy flew to Israel unexpectedly on Sunday to meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and other Israeli leaders, in an attempt to reach agreement soon on a border dispute with Egypt, an Israeli official said.

Mr. Murphy arrived from Cairo, where he was accompanying Vice President George Bush on the third leg of a Middle East trip during which they also visited Israel and Jordan, and met with the heads of the prime minister's office and the foreign ministry, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He was to meet with Mr. Peres, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin later in the evening to discuss settlement of the dispute over Taba, the official said.

"It seems that (Mr. Murphy) is making a last-ditch effort to initial some kind of agreement before Mr. Bush leaves the area" on Tuesday, he said. U.S. officials said while Mr. Bush was here last week that if Israel and Egypt reached agreement while the vice president was still in the area, he might be able to witness its signature.

But the official said he did not know any details of what message Mr. Murphy was bringing Israel. Israel, Egyptian and U.S. negotiators met last week to try to finalise the guidelines for a team of international arbitrators who are to decide on whether Israel or Egypt owns the one-square-kilometre Red Sea resort.

The importance of the tiny area itself was outweighed by Egypt's insistence that President Hosni

Mubarak will not take part in a summit meeting with Mr. Peres, and that it will not continue with full normalisation of its relations with Israel, until they sign the arbitration deed.

Israel and Egypt, which signed a treaty in 1979, entered a period of "cold peace" in 1982 with Israel's invasion of Lebanon: Egypt withdrew its ambassador and slowed down other aspects of normalisation, although ministers and other officials have continued to visit in both directions. Egypt's Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan arrived in Israel earlier on Sunday to discuss tourism in the region (See page 2).

Talks have been going on since January to draft the arbitration deed, but were stalemated again on Friday over technical details about the mapping of the area and appointment of the arbitrators.

Earlier on Sunday, Mr. Peres met with a group of 25 Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to discuss the future of the peace process following his meeting with King Hassan, his spokesman announced.

Spokesman Uri Savir quoted him as saying "we are prepared to discuss the Palestinian problem ... (and) to hold discussions with any Palestinian representative from (the West Bank and Gaza), who can express any opinion — our opposition is not to the expressing of opinions or positions, but to terrorism and violence, which have no place in the framework of negotiations."

Mr. Peres has indicated in the past that he would accept Palestinian negotiators who were identified with the PLO, so long as they had not been directly involved in violence against Israel or Jewish targets.

Bush predicts Mideast peace in 10 years

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush on Sunday predicted a regional Middle East peace settlement would be achieved within 10 years.

"I can see a number of ways to build a peace in this region — not this year or next year, perhaps, but certainly within a decade," he said.

Mr. Bush was addressing a contingent of the multinational peacekeeping force based at Al Ghorah, in the sandy wastelands of the Northern Sinai desert.

He told elements of the 2,600-man, 11-nation Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) he had found a growing consensus for peace during his visit to Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

"On this trip, I have seen a marked change in the mood in this region. Every leader agrees we must have peace," Mr. Bush told the MFO, set up to monitor the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

Despite Mr. Bush's prediction of new momentum, his Middle East tour has failed to produce any concrete evidence of movement towards peace talks.

A senior U.S. official travelling with the vice-president said Mr. Bush's optimism was based on the perception that Israel, Jordan and many Palestinian leaders were privately showing a new determination to achieve peace. "There is a greater sense of urgency," the official said.

Mr. Bush has expressed the hope that the recent meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Morocco's King Hassan will encourage other Arab leaders to sit down with the Israelis.

But Jordan has rejected direct talks with Israel except within the framework of an international all-party conference.

From Al Ghorah, Mr. Bush flew to Cairo — his last stop on a 10-day trip.

Mr. Bush will hold two days of talks with President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials, expected to focus on ways to bring peace negotiations closer and the restructuring of American aid to help Egypt's slumping economy.

U.S. officials now say it is unlikely that an Israeli-Egyptian arbitration accord designed to settle a sovereignty dispute over the Red Sea beach town of Taba will be completed before Mr. Bush leaves Cairo on Tuesday.

Mr. Bush had been hoping to preside over a signing ceremony. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy discussed Taba with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid on Sunday and said the talks had been constructive.

"I believe we are making progress," he told reporters. "We hope to finish. There are no predictions to share with you."

Egyptian and Israeli negotiators, aided by U.S. observers, are due to continue long-running talks on an arbitration accord on Tuesday.

Earlier on Sunday, Mr. Bush visited the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens at Luxor, southern Egypt, where he toured the tombs of Egypt's ancient pharaonic rulers.

In Queen Nefertari's tomb, Mr. Bush and his wife, Barbara, got a demonstration of an illumination technique used by ancient Egyptians to reflect sunlight into the tombs for the benefit of workmen. The tombs' modern artificial lighting was turned off.

Mr. and Mrs. Bush visited the Karnak, a sprawling monument featuring the remains of temples spanning 2,000 years, on Saturday. They toured the Royal Necropolis on the west bank of the Nile River early Sunday before flying to Sinai.

At Al Arish, northern Sinai's principal city on the Mediterranean, he changed to the smaller Egyptian aircraft for the trip to Al Ghorah, about 30 kilometres to the southeast.

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Islamic Jihad rejects talks with Reagan, Runcie or Pope

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Islamic Jihad organisation said in a statement published that it rejects any negotiations with U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration on the release of at least three American hostages it holds in Lebanon.

The type-written Arabic language statement also rejected negotiations with Pope John Paul II or the Archbishop of Canterbury. It threatened to kill the remaining American hostages unless "our demands are met."

"Regarding the concept of the great Satan Reagan and his administration, about resolving this issue through prayers, we counsel them to begin praying for their souls and those of the American corpses that will reach the black (White) House one after another unless our demands are met," said the statement.

It was delivered to the independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar in the Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital shortly after midnight local time (2100 GMT Saturday).

Along with it was a black-and-white close-up photo of one hostage, who resembles David Jacobson, director of the American University Hospital in Beirut who was kidnapped on May 28, 1985.

The statement said Islamic Jihad had given newly released hostage, the Rev. Lawrence Jenco, a videotape in which Jacobson, 55, of Huntington Beach, California appealed to the American public to pressure Washington to negotiate for the remaining captives.

Islamic Jihad said the seven-minute videotape was the only thing they gave to Jenco upon

impossible. So is the case with Archbishop Robert Runcie.

Jenco had met with the Pope, Runcie and Reagan after his release from almost 19 months of captivity.

"We wish to tell Father Jenco that he is the first in know that we did not give him any messages to anyone. So do not let the (Central Intelligence Agency) CIA dictate on you, or make you fabricate lies that will do more harm than good to this (hostages) issue," Islamic Jihad statement said.

"If you want your colleagues (hostages) to join you and Father (Benjamin) Weir, you both know from where the solution begins," the statement said.

Weir, 61, a Presbyterian minister kidnapped by Islamic Jihad on May 8, 1984, was freed on Sept. 14, 1985.

The other two remaining hostages are chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press Terry Anderson, 38, of Lorain, Ohio, who was kidnapped on March 16, 1985, and Thomas Sutherland, 55, of Fort Collins, Colorado acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut. He was abducted on June 9, 1985.

Islamic Jihad had claimed responsibility for kidnapping another American, U.S. embassy political officer William Buckley, March 16, 1984. But it claimed it killed him last Oct. 4 to avenge U.S. alleged complicity in Israel's air raid on the Tishat headquarters of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation on Oct. 1. No corpse had been found, however.

The group did not spell out any specific demands in the latest statement. But it had frequently

said in the past that it wants 17 comrades held by Kuwait for bombing the U.S. and French embassies there in December 1983 released in exchange for the American captives.

Meanwhile the Rev. Lawrence Jenco returned to his hometown Saturday after 19 months of captivity in Lebanon and was greeted by thousands of cheering well-wishers.

The Roman Catholic priest, looking frail but pleased, sat on the back of an open car as he rode in a motorcade through city streets lined by 10,000 people. The crowd waved American flags and showered Jenco with yellow flowers.

Jenco thanked religious figures who had interceded on his behalf, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Mr. Waite.

"And to all the others who have worked for my release, thank you," the priest said.

Signs held by well-wishers proclaimed "praise the Lord," and "Dear God, thank you for bringing him home."

"Thank you, thank you. I'm glad to be home," said Jenco as he grinned and gave thumbs-up signs to the people.

Jackson, in a brief speech, called Jenco "a saintly gentleman with velvet spirit and with unusual strength of character."

The last time the priest saw his hometown Joliet, about 65 kilometres from south of Chicago, was in August 1984, when he celebrated his 25th anniversary as a priest.

Shortly after, he left the United States to head Catholic Relief Services in Beirut, Lebanon, where he was kidnapped on Jan. 8, 1985.

Pope prays for release of hostages

By Nabih Tannous
Reuters

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Sunday spoke of his meeting with an American priest who was held hostage in Lebanon by Muslim extremists and prayed for the quick release of all captives in Lebanon, foreigners as well as Lebanese Christians and Muslims.

The Pope met the priest, the Rev. Lawrence Jenco, in a private audience at the Vatican on Wednesday. Jenco said he relayed a message to the Roman Catholic leader from those who held him captive for 19 months.

Jenco did not disclose the message, and the Pope did not mention it during his address on Sunday to pilgrims and tourists at his summer residence.

"I want to tell you about my emotions in meeting" Jenco, the Pope told the crowd. "Father Jenco talked about his suffering in such a long period and of the joy in embracing his family and his sentiments of gratitude to the Lord and to all those who were interested in the painful affair," the Pope said.

"He wanted to also express to me his profound anxiety and concern for all those who are still held hostage, especially those in Lebanon," the Pope said.

Pope John Paul, in his first public comments on the Lebanese hostages since meeting Jenco, told the crowd: "I thank God for the liberation of Father Jenco and invoke him confidently so that all those kidnapped will soon be freed."

"I think not only of the foreign hostages, but also of the hundreds of Lebanese, Christians and Muslims, kidnapped in numerous acts of violence and war," the Pope added.

Hospitals wage war on suffering from eerie Beirut battlefield sites

By Nabih Tannous
Reuters

BEIRUT — Two of Lebanon's most distinguished hospitals are waging a courageous war against suffering from the mayhem of Beirut's "green line" battlefield.

Battle-scarred Hotel Dieu in Christian east Beirut and Berbir in predominantly-Muslim west Beirut have survived crossfire, shelling and bombings in 11 years of civil war despite their location within sight of the "green line" crossing.

They have developed life-saving routines to shuttle patients, mainly victims of Lebanon's bloodshed, into shelters, while doctors and staff have daily braved the fighting to report to work.

"If there's shelling, we take patients in their beds into the corridors. If it gets worse, we take them down in a lift to a non-exposed building," said Hotel Dieu Doctor Aida Mousalli.

"Ultimately, we take them into the shelter."

Andre Aoun, director of the hospital, recalls how a long-range surface-to-surface missile crashed into a maternity ward and blew it apart on Aug. 31, 1983.

"The patients had been evacuated and only four people were injured," he said in an interview beside bricked-up windows in his office in the shell-pocked, 280-bed hospital.

Built with French help in 1923, Hotel Dieu has within 500 metres of the front line when the war carved Beirut into two sectors in 1975. Since then, sandbags and bricks have protected its vulnerable spots.

Bullet-chipped Berbir in west Beirut is even closer to the fighting. It is some 200 metres from opposition gun-nests and a direct line of fire from east Beirut.

The hospital has been extensively repaired five times at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars, a Berbir spokesman said. Berbir looms over side streets that have witnessed 11 years of kidnaps and gunfights. Last month, a bus ferrying staff of Beirut's internationally-known American University Hospital (AUH) was machine-gunned nearby and four passengers were killed.

Later, the hospital was shaken by a large car bomb which exploded 100 metres away. Several of the 24 dead and 160 wounded were rushed to its casualty wards.

Similar attacks have shown that doctors and Red Cross workers cannot expect to be spared in Beirut, where militiamen seeking to avenge dead and wounded have been known to take gun and rocket battles inside hospital wards.

In 1981, a French doctor visiting Hotel Dieu was wounded and paralysed when the hospital was shelled. At Berbir, an employee was blinded by shrapnel while helping patients into a shelter.

But emergency routines at the 212-bed Berbir, like those at Hotel Dieu, have saved many from dying.

Patients walked or were carried on stretchers to safer areas during shelling, a doctor at Berbir said.

"Sometimes plasma drips are kept attached to them, and others help pull stretchers-rolleys," he said.

In February 1984, fighting raged close to the gates of the six-storey building as opposition militiamen battled with Lebanese army units. Doctors, nurses, patients and visitors huddled for 18 hours in the hospital's shelter. Last year, phosphorus shells crashed into the laboratory, destroying all its equipment.

But a spokesman said that only twice had Berbir been forced to send patients for operations elsewhere — once in August 1982, when the hospital was heavily damaged by shelling from invading Israeli troops, and again in February 1984.

The hospital, founded in 1939 by French-trained Dr. Nassib Berbir, still sends its surgeons abroad for part of their training. Hotel Dieu's services were stretched this year by a flood of victims from car bombings in east Beirut, the deadliest of which was in July, killing 30 people and wounding 100.

In January, the hospital could only admit 20 of 72 car bomb victims brought for treatment. The rest were rushed elsewhere.

State medical aid in Lebanon consists of a Health Ministry insurance scheme designed to reimburse hospitals for the cost of treating war victims and the poor.

But Aoun said ministry payments were late and charged that Hotel Dieu had yet to receive expenses for 1984.

A Health Ministry official told Reuters that the ministry had paid out almost twice the 120 million Lebanese pounds (\$3 million) allotted for 1986 patient costs this year.

Any payment delays were due to what he called routine measures, he said.

Egypt's minister of tourism in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egypt's Tourism Minister Foad Sultan arrived in Israel Sunday to discuss travel between the two countries and the decline of American tourists to the area.

Mr. Sultan's visit comes amid renewed U.S.-backed efforts to finalise an agreement for international arbitration of a border dispute over the Red Sea resort of Tabā, which has been a major factor in chilly relations between the two countries.

An Israeli delegation are expected to hold talks in Cairo Tuesday or Wednesday to discuss Tabā and normalising relations with Egypt, the only Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Richard Murphy, who is travelling with Vice President George Bush on his current Middle East tour, met Saturday in Cairo with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid to discuss the Tabā issue.

David Kimche, Israel's Foreign Ministry director-general, said he and other Israeli negotiators would meet with Mr. Abdul Meguid to discuss the future of bilateral relations after agreement is reached on arbitration of rival claims to the 250-acre Red Sea beach currently under Israeli control.

"Tabā is one element among several in the bilateral realm ... including various agreements we signed in 1980 for tourism, trade and culture. We want to make sure these things are applied after we sign the arbitration agreement," Mr. Kimche said in an Israeli Radio interview.

Mr. Sultan, who will meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during his three-day visit, told reporters upon arriving in Israel that he was not carrying any message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Israeli leaders.

"I'm a businessman, not a politician," Mr. Sultan said. He declined to answer questions regarding a possible summit between Mr. Peres and Mr. Mubarak once the Tabā arbitration agreement was signed.

"I'm sure we can do much to further tourism to our two countries," Mr. Sultan said. "Tourism from the United States has declined over the past year and I hope the cooperation between us will bring to help bring back tourists to both our countries."

Egyptian and Israeli figures show a drop of up to 80 per cent in U.S. tourism to Egypt and Israel since the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA plane to Lebanon.

American tourism to Egypt declined from 45,000 in the period between January and March last year, to 17,000 this year. In Israel, the figure dropped from 229,000 in the period between January and April 1985, to 64,234 this year.

Israeli Tourism Minister Avraham Shafir said Mr. Sultan's visit would contribute to normalising relations because "the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt will remain nothing more than a worthless piece of paper without the meeting of the peoples of the two lands." Mr. Sultan is the fourth Egyptian minister to visit here during the past year.

Tourism Ministry officials said on Mr. Sultan's agenda are talks regarding simplification of procedures for Israelis to visit the Sinai Desert which Israel returned to Egypt under the 1979 peace treaty, and arrangements for Christian and Muslim pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

In 1984, the last year for which figures are available, 60,000 Israelis visited Egypt, compared with 4,000 Egyptians who came to Israel. The number of Israeli tourists dropped dramatically since the shooting of seven Israeli vacationers in the Sinai by an Egyptian policeman last October.

Qadhafi allegedly bought hostages then killed them

JOLIET, Illinois (AP) — A congressman has said that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had an American and two Britons killed after buying them from their Lebanese captors.

Col. Qadhafi tried to do the same with four other American hostages, including the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco and three men still held by Islamic Jihad, said Representative Robert Dornan, a Republican from California.

Mr. Dornan made the allegations after attending a public homecoming celebration for Jenco, who was freed July 26 after 19 months as a hostage.

"The State Department confirmed to me two days ago that Col. Qadhafi had tried to buy Father Jenco and the other hostages with hard cash," Mr. Dornan said.

"The group holding the father turned him down. However, he (Qadhafi) was more successful with the other group that held Peter Kilburn of San Francisco. So he bought Kilburn and the two

Englishmen for the sole purpose of murdering them."

The State Department had no immediate comment on Mr. Dornan's remarks.

When asked how much Col. Qadhafi had allegedly paid, Mr. Dornan said, "there's a rumour that he paid a million dollars each, but like all rumours, it could be off."

Mr. Dornan stressed that the Shiite Muslim group Islamic Jihad, which freed Jenco and still holds three American hostages, had nothing to do with the deaths of Kilburn and the Englishmen.

Kilburn, 62, an American University librarian, disappeared on Dec. 3, 1984, and was found shot to death April 17, 1986. Found with him, both also shot dead, were Leigh Douglas, 34, a British professor at the American University and Philip Padfield, 40, a British language teacher. A nearby note said Arab Revolutionary Cells killed them in retaliation for the U.S. air attack on Libya on April 15.

Bourguiba swims on 83rd birthday

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President for life Habib Bourguiba went swimming on his 83rd birthday Sunday after young supporters handed him a torch symbolising his determination to carry on as the country's undisputed leader.

The Tunisian News Agency (TAP) said the torch was presented by a delegation of young people of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party.

Led by former champion long-distance runner Mohammad Gammoudi they carried the president shoulder-high through crowds of well-wishers in the



President Bourguiba presidential-palace forecourt at Skaea near his birthplace in Monastir.

He later went for his usual daily swim in the sea accompanied by Mansour Skhiri, director of the presidential cabinet who ranks second in the government.

After half a century as Tunisia's leader, Mr. Bourguiba has recently shown renewed vigour after a period of failing health, diplomats said.

Iranian team visits Moscow

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larjani has left for political and economic talks in Moscow, saying relations with the Soviet Union were taking a positive trend.

The delegation is expected to discuss trade and economic cooperation with Soviet officials. Larjani is also expected to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Gennadiy Yavlinskiy.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 773111	2345 Evening Show Cont. 2400 Close down
PROGRAMME ONE	
17:00 Korna	
17:30 Cartoons	
17:50 Scientific programme	
18:15 Bing Crosby Show	
18:40 Animals in Action	
19:00 Local programme	
19:30 Programme review	
19:45 News programme	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Arabic Series	
20:45 Programme on Arab Forces	
21:00 Local series	
21:30 News summary in Arabic	
21:45 Varieties programme	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00 French programme	
18:30 News in French	
19:15 Magazine Sportif	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
19:45 Living Tomorrow	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Growing Pains	
21:00 Miscellaneous	
21:30 News in English	
22:00 Crown Court	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM and partly on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel. 77411-19	
07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsdesk	
08:00 Morning Show	
08:30 News Summary	
09:00 Pop Session	
09:30 News Summary	
10:00 Pop Session Cont.	
10:30 News Bulletin	
11:00 Instruments	
11:30 Over a Cup of Tea	
12:00 Concert Hour	
12:30 News Summary	
13:00 Old Favorites	
13:30 Talking About Music	
14:00 Pop Session	
14:30 News Summary	
15:00 Sports Round-up	
15:30 Music	
16:00 Newsdesk	
16:30 Date with a Star	
17:00 Evening Show	
17:30 News Summary	
18:00 Evening Show Cont.	
18:30 News Summary	
19:00 Evening Show Cont.	
19:30 News Summary	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* The University of Sydney's photographic exhibition of the "Agaba-Ma" archaeological survey at the University of Jordan's Archaeology Museum.	
* An exhibition entitled "The Statute of Liberty" at the French Cultural Centre (until August 21).	
* An art exhibition by Marwan Shazadati at the Housing Bank Centre Gallery.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	
American Centre Library Tel. 644371	
British Council 6361478	
French Cultural Centre 637009	
Georgian Institute 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203	
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777	
Haya Arts Centre 665195	
Hausa Youth City 667186	
Y.W.C.A. 642251	
Amman Municipal Library 637111	
University of Jordan Library 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also costumes from Medinet and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf (a Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 677534.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, sculpture, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum: Jabel Luveldah. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
Museum of Military Memorabilia: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luveldah. Tel. 637440.	
St. Basil Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Humsa. Tel. 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabel. Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman. Tel. 678904.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsat. Tel. 677534.	
Armenian Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Sair). Tel. 811295.	
Belarus Congregation (International Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman. Tel. 606974.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:18 Fajr	
05:52 (Sunrise)	
12:43 Dhuhr	
16:23 'Asr	
19:31 Maghrib	
21:00 Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (09) 33200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
07:35 Cairo (MS)	
09:15 Amman (RJ)	
09:55 Amman (RJ)	
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23:45 Amman (RJ)	
24:00 Amman (RJ)	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman civil defence 198, 199
Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Unit 770733
Civil Defence Unit 773036
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630341
Blood bank 778303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Police 622093-5
Police rescue 621111, 637177
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 896390-1
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal waste collection 77125/8
Queen Aila Int. Airport (08)5353060

HOSPITALS

Hammeh Medical Centre 813813/32
Khafid Maternity, J. Amn. 664281/6
Aklieh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Melhies, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiah 664171/4
Shepherdian Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845843/65
Al-Bachir Hospital 667272/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666112
Al-Ahl, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mahajerin 777101/3
Jordan, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Amy, Marjeh 89111/26
Queen Aila Hospital 602240/50

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	250/200
Apple (green)	430/380
Apple (Anjou/Anjou & French)	400/340
Banana	300/250
Banana (Mekunmaran)	500/220
Banana	300/200
Cashew (yellow)	170/130
Cashew (red)	270/130
Cauliflower	180/100
Cucumber	140/100
Eggplant (large)	130/60
Eggplant (small)	120/80
Garlic	300/450
Garlic	270/200
Leek	500/240

AMMAN HOSPITAL

Amman Hospital 674155

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nabil Hinnawi 628413
Dr. Aswar Mousa 778420
Khalaf pharmacy 778233
Al Sulam pharmacy 668056
Neurology pharmacy 626362

TAXI:
Hawala taxi 771776
Khalaf taxi 664688
Basham taxi 811857
Al Khaytan taxi 664541
Al Ahi taxi 621127

DRINK:
Dr. Abdul Rahim Moubarek 244557

ZARQA:
Dr. Asad Mousa 987364

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/9
Radio Jordan 773111/9
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel completion 666112
Pipes complaints 661776
Telephone information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Rural calls 11

Marrow	230/150
Mallow	70/40
Melon (Sweet)	180/140
Melon (dry)	120/60
Okra	400/300
Orange (local and Valencia)	320/240
Parsley	60/60
Peaches	350/180
Pepper (sweet)	120/100
Pepper (hot)	140/100
Pumpkin	350/250
Potatoes	160/100
Raspberries	120/80
Spinach	300/200
Tomatoes	30/30
Water melon	80/40

NEWS IN BRIEF

Society campaigns for blood donors

AMMAN (Petra) — The friends of the blood bank society at the University of Jordan have launched a two-day campaign to encourage students and other people to donate blood. A society spokesman said that the campaign resulted in the collection of 120 blood units which were handed over to the blood bank at the University of Jordan Hospital.

Dahiyat reviews centre's activities

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Eid Dahiyat Sunday chaired a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) to review means of developing the centre's programmes and operations. The minister urged RCC officials to step up contacts and cooperation with other centres in Jordan and abroad to try and benefit from their successful programmes. He also urged them to draw up plans for promoting the centre's activities.

Foundation gives JD 2,000 to Haya centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation has donated JD 2,000 to the Haya Arts Centre to help finance the establishment of a children's museum at the centre.

RSS to attend conference on research

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will take part in the first meeting of scientific research centres in member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), due to open on Sept. 27 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The two-day conference will discuss the activities of these centres and the idea of establishing a scientific research league. The participants will also discuss several working papers presented by different centres on their research projects and on cooperation in technological affairs.

IDB supports local industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) last month granted loans totalling JD 95,800 to 33 local industries. The loans went to finance woodwork, mechanic and machinist workshops, upholstery shops, restaurants and a factory for the manufacture of building materials.

Ministry to issue commemorative stamps

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications has decided to issue a new commemorative stamp of the heart institute at the King Hussein Medical Centre. The ministry's under-secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif said that the new issue of stamps is on the occasion of the Kingdom's celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, which will fall on Monday Aug. 11. This occasion also coincides with the 13th anniversary of the opening of the King Hussein Medical Centre.

Indian economy team due this week

AMMAN (Petra) — An Indian economic delegation is due in Amman this week for discussions with officials in the public and private sectors on the possibility of adjusting the balance of trade between Jordan and India. The delegation will also meet with the Amman Chamber of Commerce board of directors to exchange views on means of increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

Industrial festival to open on Aug. 10

AMMAN (J.T.) — A festival of Jordanian national industries will be held at the Seventh Circle, Jabal Amman, on Aug. 10 under the patronage of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the director of the festival, Mr. Issam Odeh announced Sunday. Mr. Odeh said that the festival, which will exhibit national industrial products, will be organised by Al Mntahlek Magazine in cooperation with a Jordanian society to promote and support national industries.

The exhibition, which will remain open to the public for one month, is to be set up on a 10 dunum plot of land and it will be the third festival of its kind in the country, Mr. Odeh explained. However, he went on to say that this festival will be different from the first and second festivals in terms of its organisation and location and he added that there will be sufficient areas of land for displaying samples of as many national industries as possible. He said that the Armed Forces will have a special wing displaying the development of the military and another wing will be occupied by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities where Jordan's development will be projected through publications and translated material.

Mr. Odeh, who was speaking at a press conference held near the festival site, said that at least 150 national industries will be represented in the festival and that there will be a wide range of goods on display, including children's toys. He said that the festival's management has invited foreign missions and embassies in Amman to visit the festival, which will remain open to the public from five in the evening until 11 at night. The items at the exhibition, he said, will be sold at cost price.

The opening of the festival, on the eve of the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, will be preceded by a procession of vehicles displaying Jordanian industries taking part in the festival. Several government departments, in addition to the Amman Chamber of Industry, are involved in preparing for the festival.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday receives in his office Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Samir Mohammad Abdul Wahhab (Second from left). Also present are Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad (Second from right) and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein (Petra photo).

Committee prepares for conference on computers and their applications

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first national conference on computers and their applications in Jordan will open in Amman on Nov. 2 to introduce participants to recent developments in various fields of computer sciences and to tackle any difficulties regarding the application of computers.

The four-day conference, expected to attract concerned Jordanians working in the public and private computer business, will be opened under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is a staunch advocate of scientific development and the uses of computers in development, information, policies and education.

The event is being sponsored by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Universities of Jordan, Yarmouk and Mu'ta in cooperation with the national committee for science and technology.

President of the conference's media coordination committee Dr. Marwan Muasher Sunday said that all interested Jordanians working in the computer field are invited to take part in the

conference, provided they register before the conference opens.

Interested participants are also welcome to present working papers if they submit an annotated outline of not less than 300 words to the conference's secretariat no later than Aug. 10, and the full text of the paper by Aug. 30, Dr. Muasher said.

Dr. Muasher emphasised that the conference's deliberations will not be "purely technical" since a lot of papers will highlight the application of computers and their uses as well as the latest developments in the computer industry.

The topics to be discussed at the conference include: microcomputers, computer software development in Jordan, research and development in computers, maintenance, computers and Arabisation, computers and communications, career issues in computing, computer literacy, computers in education, computers in the public sector and policies and strategies in informatics.

The conference, to be held at the University of Jordan Faculty of Engineering, will be in both English and Arabic.

According to available information, there are almost 80 private software and hardware computer companies operating in Jordan as well as approximately 1,500 people working in the business. A society was recently established to tackle all issues related to computer operators and businesses.

Dr. Muasher explained that the computer industry and its applications boomed in Jordan over the past three years with users becoming more "sophisticated and demanding."

At present, computers are used in small and large sized private businesses, several private schools and the Ministry of Education has launched a plan to introduce computer sciences in its schools.

The seven-member organising committee is chaired by Dr. Youssef Nuseir from the RSS and includes Dr. Riad Jabri from the University of Jordan, Dr. Abdullah Hussein from Yarmouk University, Dr. Saleh Aqileh from the University of Mu'ta, Dr. Khamis Amer from the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, Dr. Abdullah Al Rifai from the private sector and Dr. Muasher from the Ministry of Planning.

Rifai, Iraqi minister review cooperation in higher education

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday conferred in his office with visiting Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Samir Mohammad Abdul Wahhab. They reviewed Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in education and scientific research affairs. The meeting was attended by Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein and Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad.

Earlier Sunday, Dr. Assad, accompanied the Iraqi minister on a visit to the University of Jordan where they met with its vice president Mahmoud Al Samra and heard a briefing on the university's development and programmes. Dr. Samra explained that the University of Jordan plans to introduce a programme for increasing the scope of its post graduate studies. The two ministers later called at the university library and met with

officials and librarians who briefed the guests on its services. They also watched a documentary on the development of the University of Jordan, which was established in 1962.

The Iraqi minister, accompanied by Dr. Assad, later visited Amman Community College where he was briefed by the college's director general on the courses of study and plans for the future. The two ministers watched students taking their final examinations at the college.

Also Sunday, the Iraqi embassy in Amman invited students who applied for seats at Iraqi universities to receive their documents to be channelled through the Ministry of Higher Education in Amman in implementation of a Jordanian-Iraqi agreement on the acceptance of Jordanian students at Iraqi higher education institutes.

Decree endorses education, cultural accord with Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday endorsing an executive programme for implementing a Jordanian-Egyptian cultural agreement for the period 1986-1988. The programme aims at boosting bilateral cooperation in cultural and higher education affairs.

The programme was signed in Amman on July 1 by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad and his Egyptian counterpart Fathi Mohammad Ali following talks between the two sides. The programme provides

for the two countries to exchange expertise in educational matters and to exchange textbooks and to cooperate in academic and vocational training. The two will also cooperate in publishing school textbooks, will exchange visits by school staff and Egypt will accept Jordanian children at its government and private schools.

The programme covers cooperation in higher education such as launching cooperation between Jordanian and Egyptian universities, and conducting joint research projects.

Balqa registers 528 road accidents in seven months

SALT (Petra) — A total of 528 road accidents occurred in the Balqa region in the past seven months, according to an official statistical bulletin. The bulletin said that the accidents resulted in the death of 16 persons and the injury of 340 others. Earlier this week the Public Security Department (PSD) issued a bulletin in which it said that a total of 306 road accidents occurred in Jordan the previous week.

Photographic exhibition, archaeological survey reveal timeless character of southern region

By Josephine Zanani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Southern Jordan, the Ma'an-Aqaba region, remains a mystery zone, a moon-like nether world, to most of us northerners. A quick trip down the main highway reveals a little of the physical splendours possibly present in the hinterland. A hint or whiff in the timeless atmosphere of the shimmering desert landscape suggests a far older world slumbering in cool and ancient places.

For those who pass the region and dream of what may lie beyond the asphalt, there is a photographic exhibition, in air-conditioned comfort, at the Jordan University Museum depicting the Ma'an-Aqaba archaeological and epigraphic survey carried out by Dr. W.J. Jobling, an Australian archaeologist who has traversed and searched south Jordan for six seasons since 1980.

The survey commenced in 1980 at the suggestion of Mrs. Coral Bennett, former director of the British Institute of Archaeology and History in Amman, and at the invitation of Dr. Adnan Haddad, director of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, and

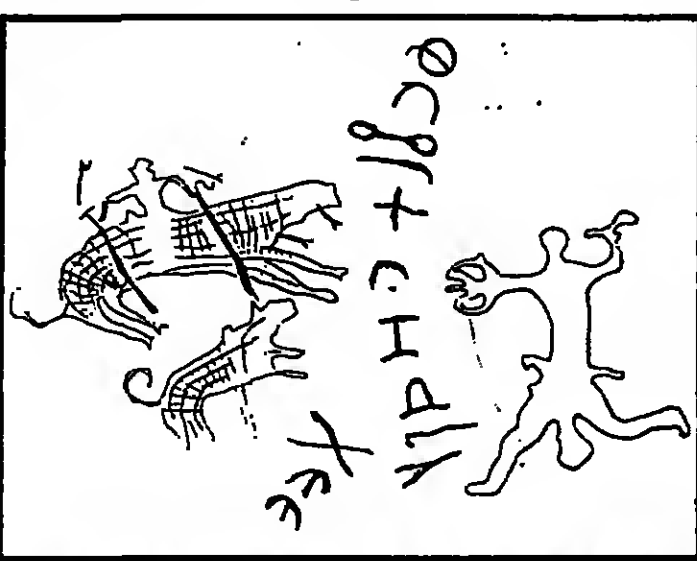
was funded by the Australian research grants scheme of the Australian Federal Department of Science and Technology as well as the University of Sydney which has an extensive history of archaeological participation in Jordan.

Profile of human occupation

The aim of the survey was to explore the Aqaba and Ma'an area with a view to establishing a profile of the history of human occupation and in order to compile a computer based gazetteer of the antiquities and epigraphic sites of the region.

It is one of the ancient world's most curious zones, with its strategic location on the cross roads of early civilisation's trade routes and also in as much as it formed a land bridge between the settled Levantine coast and the badia and beyond in to the mysteries of Arabia.

During the six seasons of the survey the area was divided into three topographical units — the escarpment forming the major change in the topography separating the Ma'an plateau from the Hisma depression, the inselbergs fringing the escarpment and predominating in the



Drawing of the archaeological and epigraphic sites included in the survey area.

southern part of the area and the Qa' unit which forms the basin of the Hisma depression.

For Dr. Jobling's expeditions, hydrology became an early focal point as inevitably in the desert where water was available human and animal life were possible. In the badia, tiny springs, scant reservoirs and underground well shafts sustained life well beyond initial expectation.

Dr. Jobling recorded the many north Arabian inscriptions and rock art of the region. The art work indicates, "extensive evidence for the fauna, avifauna and certain common episodes of the daily life of the pre-Islamic indigenes of the area."

Inscriptions

The numerous inscriptions recorded by the expeditions produced a great deal of information on the conditions out of which the constituent members of the Semitic language family emerged. The inscriptions also provided valuable parallels and suggestions concerning the regional economy and life style of the north Arabian peoples.

The data collected throughout the six seasons has considerably contributed to an understanding of the early human occupation of the fertile crescent and future expeditions will continue with the studies focusing on inscriptions, rock art and the archaeological evidence for the management of water resources by the north Arabians.

The colourful and descriptive photographic exhibition of Dr.

Jobling's work emphasises hydrology, rock art, epigraphy, as well as ecology and archaeology. The photographs of water resources are a vivid reminder of the desert's surprises and ancient man's ingenuity; deep cisterns, cool and mossy often with ferns clinging uneasily to loose rocks, and life-giving springs which watered so many passing civilisations in south Jordan.

Rock art

The rock art photographed is a cacophony of timeless running figures jumbled with now extinct gazelles, springboks, goats, tigers, lions and possibly even an elephant. One large work of art — a round, primitively drawn figure — is complete with inscriptions; other drawings too are liberally labelled with ancient north Arabian inscriptions.

The quiet photographs of man's early works of art are amply off-set by the dramatic vistas of the ecology and archaeology of south Jordan; from misty scenes of Wadi Rum slumbering in the pink early morning light to large, "cathedral" monoliths brooding under an unexpected drift of winter snow.

Each of the photographs indicates more than a record of a comprehensive archaeological expedition, but ably demonstrates life beyond the asphalt in a timeless land alive with the past.

The exhibition runs from Aug. 3-12 at the Jordan University Museum. It is open to the public between the hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MAID WANTED

European family urgently requires full-time live-in maid. Must be fluent in English.

Please phone 660100, extension 531.

FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

Consisting of two bedrooms, lounge, and salon with garden, and garage, independent central heating and telephone. German furniture. Location: Um Utheina, commercial market, near Waddan Supermarket. Call: 813526

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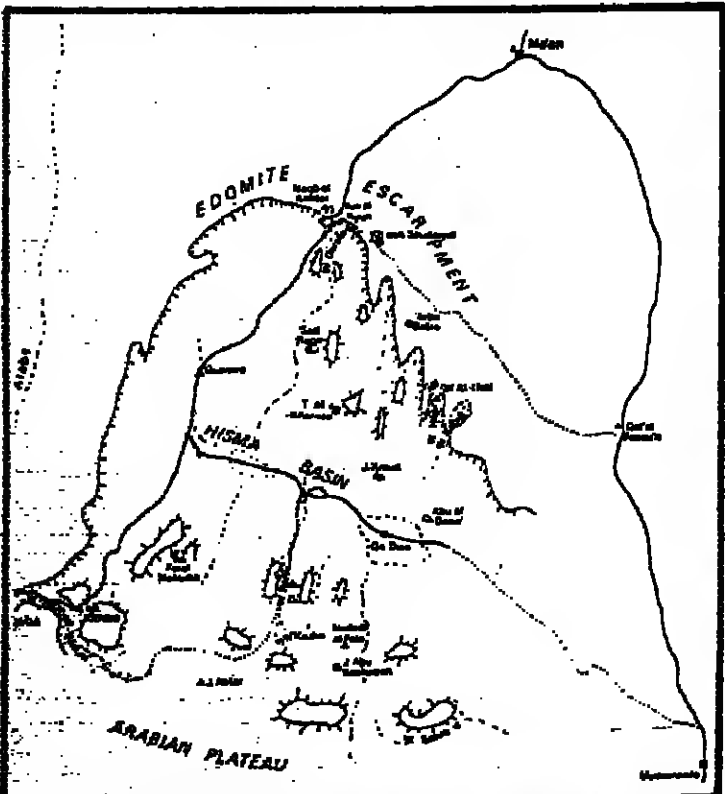
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New reminder of old facts

U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb asserted last Friday that the American position on the legal status of the Israeli-occupied territories should be clear to anyone who has followed the diplomatic and military history of the Middle East for the past 20 or 30 years. "The U.S. does not recognise Israel's sovereignty over territories occupied as a result of the June 1967 war and considers U.N. (Security Council) Resolution 242, embodying the principle of land-for-peace, as the basis for negotiations on the final status of these territories," Mr. Kalb said.

We know that this is indeed the long-standing "official" U.S. position regarding territories seized by Israel during its 1967 aggression, but there are some good reasons why we occasionally need to be reminded of this fact. These go back to the days following the 1967 war, when Israel annexed East Jerusalem under the guise of "unifying" the city. In 1968 the first settlements were erected on the ridge overlooking the Jordan Valley; by 1983 there were 106 settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, many of which had been built with funds provided by the American government and settled by Jewish immigrants from the United States. To facilitate what Israelis openly refer to as "the peopling of Eretz (Greater) Israel," the Jewish state has seized direct control over some 42 per cent of the West Bank and 31 per cent of the Gaza Strip. In 1981 Tel Aviv "extended Israeli law" to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, effectively annexing this strategic area. And two weeks ago Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres told Morocco's King Hassan II that the occupied territories were not to be returned to Arab sovereignty.

During the early years of the Israeli occupation the U.S. government, in accord with the "official" position outlined above by Mr. Kalb, did routinely express its displeasure at the "creation of facts" tending to change the status of the occupied territories. As time passed, however, and aid dollars continued to flow while the U.S.-Israeli military relationship grew ever closer, the State Department gradually dropped the facade of condemning aggressive actions by the Jewish state in the occupied territories. As a result, dramatically and boldly emphasised during the Hassan II-Peres talks, Israel now feels fully capable of eschewing territorial compromise as part of the peace process.

This helps to explain U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's recent observation that "there are encouraging developments in the region, but these do not warrant the United States to launch a fresh Middle East peace initiative." Given the war scare on the Syrian-Israeli front last spring, the continued bloodletting in Lebanon and the ongoing oppression of Palestinians in the occupied territories, it is hard — and scary — to imagine what would warrant a diplomatic initiative by Mr. Shultz, but in truth he is merely a symbol of the prostration of the American Middle East policy-making apparatus at the feet of Israeli interests. U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, the cornerstone of America's Middle East peace policy, is quite simply dead in the face of current Israeli intransigence. As a result, calls by U.S. officials for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the Arab-Palestinian-Israeli conflict are increasingly hollow, because there is nothing to negotiate.

So when a State Department spokesman reassures us that America's "official" position on the essential territorial issue of the Middle East question has not changed, we take it with a grain of salt. Not that such reassurances are unimportant or unwarranted, given the circumstances in the area. They are. But we need the Americans to back up their words with deeds and we want them to prove that they are honest, serious and credible in playing their role.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Way to guaranteed peace

ONCE again Prime Minister Zaid Rifai emphasised that a just and durable Middle East peace can not be realised except through an international conference in which all parties to the conflict are represented. This is Jordan's firm position which had been maintained in talks with Mr. Bush in Amman and Aqaba, and which will never waver or change under any pressure. Mr. Rifai in his statement to the press also stressed that Jordan's position is not changed with regard to the Palestine question irrespective of differences of views with the PLO leadership. For his part Mr. Bush said he is more informed now than ever before of the Jordanian stand. King Hussein's rejection of direct negotiations with Israel and Jordan's insistence on an international conference. This means that the King has succeeded in presenting the Arab point of view very clearly to the American administration. But all this places added responsibility on this administration and calls for a more balanced and positive stand on the part of Washington to help achieve peace in our region.

Al Dustour: Hoping for U.S. understanding

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai has reiterated Jordan's position vis-a-vis the establishment of just peace in the Middle East. He said that Jordan wants an international conference in which all the concerned parties can be represented and at which all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict can be discussed and a solution found. Jordan's emphasis on this position is in clear contrast with the U.S. stand and with Washington's call for a solution of the Palestine question, without providing a real contribution towards that solution. The United States cannot contribute towards the establishment of peace nor can it help resolve the Palestine problem if it continues to support Israel's rejection of Arab peace bids and the idea of an international conference which provides the best guarantee for a just settlement. Mr. Bush, who has just ended a visit to Jordan, went away more convinced with the idea of some sort of international gathering to discuss the Middle East question, but we hope that American circles which have been extending unlimited support for Israel would too come to realise the need for such a conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Separate deals serve nobody

WE believe that Mr. Bush's visit to Jordan has resulted in the U.S. administration having a better understanding of the real picture of the situation in the Middle East. At a press conference Mr. Bush said that he now understands King Hussein's total rejection of the idea of separate negotiations and his insistence on an international conference to achieve comprehensive peace. For Jordan, the Arab-Israeli conflict does not represent a separate problem with Israel but rather a question of concern to all the parties in the conflict and even other nations of the world. Therefore, Jordan continues to insist on a comprehensive settlement reached in negotiations by all parties to the conflict and meeting under the auspices of the United Nations. Jordan wants an end to Israel's occupation of Arab territory and a halt to Israel's violations of the rights of the Palestinian people and also an end to Israel's attempts to impose hegemony on the region. Jordan made this view sound and clear to Mr. Bush and said that it can never accept separate direct negotiations with Israel because it can never achieve real peace.

Arab nationalism, dead or alive?

By Dr. Waleed Sa'adi

IS Arab nationalism dead and due for a post-mortem? If one looks around in the Arab World, one would certainly reach the verdict that Arab nationalism is not only deceased but also decomposed beyond recognition. That not many Arabs nowadays are talking about Arab nationalism, preaching it or even whispering about it is just too well known. Suddenly it has gone out of fashion and its glamour has faded. Some hard core politicians and Machiavellian statesmen even go so far as to suggest that in the context of realpolitik in the Arab World, it is naive or even absurd to take it into consideration. It is pointed out that by and large Arabs everywhere are occupied by their mundane needs and concerned only about their material well-being. There is a consensus that no one wants to rock the boat no matter where it is heading. The Arabs, it is stated, have grown to be blasé about other considerations and stoic about their lot in and between the Arab countries.

No one really can quarrel with

these empirical observations. They are, after all, true and are, a posteriori, valid. How else can one explain the state of affairs that exists in and between the Arab countries? And how else can one comprehend the fratricidal wars between the Arabs, or accept the atrocities which they commit against one another, or tolerate the war crimes and crimes against humanity which are perpetrated by Arabs against Arabs. One only needs to look at the savage situation in Lebanon where hundreds and hundreds of Arabs, Muslims and Christians, are slaughtered on daily basis by their compatriots, to realise that Arab nationalism is apparently dead and does not figure at all in the life of Arabs of today. Lebanon has become an epitome of contemporary state of affairs and a mirror of their deterioration and degradation. How else can one explain the fate of Palestine. When is it going to dawn on us that the fate of Palestine is a reflection and consequence of the absurd deterioration in our lot and not the cause of it?

Still, one can be an optimist. One can still believe that Arab nationalism is alive and kicking. It is only dormant, sleeping and perhaps anaesthetised. It only needs one jolt to wake up from its slumber and when it does it will be like a giant tidal wave which will engulf everything which is alien to it. Let it be remembered that the late Sharif Hussein had sparked Arab nationalism after some 400 years of slumber and paralysis, and it is common knowledge what that Arab revolt had done to mobilise Arabs everywhere and galvanise them in a gigantic uprising. The Arabs now are rightfully yearning for another spark to perpetuate that Arab awakening and move on the road to positive and constructive change of the status quo. It is natural that that Arab aspiration and yearning is deep in Arab psyche and will explode at the first opportunity.

Obviously there are still barriers and obstacles on that road to positive change and

transformation. It would be too naive to think otherwise. Foremost among the hindrances are two phenomena, namely the negative attitude and perception by the Arab masses towards their respective governments, and the equally negative and perhaps more ominous approach of Arab governments towards their respective peoples. These two phenomena are clearly intertwined and complementary and they certainly need urgent resolution by both the Arab masses and their respective governments. If the Arab governments hold their peoples with contempt and view them as illiterate, unenlightened and irresponsible, and if the peoples look on their respective governments with suspicion and are treated as their enemies, then not much can be expected from the Arab World. This vicious cycle between the governed and governor must be reckoned with most faithfully and genuinely. No people, no nation can rise to real power and eminence until a

harmony is established between the two sides and an equilibrium is attained between government and people.

There are some positive signs already that an Arab awakening is in the offing. In Jordan, giant strides have been taken towards that goal. It is not only blessed with a great popular monarch whose ancestors had sparked and led the Great Arab Revolt and thus the Arab awakening, but other political developments have taken place as well. There has been a realisation that along side economic and social development, there must be a parallel political movement in the positive direction. Jordanian parliamentary development, albeit not perfect and had not run its course, has nevertheless made giant leaps forward in a sustained and reasonable manner. Contemporary governments have equally manifested more and more sensitivity towards the moods and thoughts of the population. There is a genuine hope in Jordan that the chemistry

which happily exists between contemporary governments and the people will develop into biology. And when that happens and happens everywhere in the Arab world, then the great Arab awakening would have resumed its charted road to greatness, true power and genuine prosperity. Then and only then there could be no limit to what the Arabs can do. Then and only then their dynamics of modernisation would be in full swing and their technology, both intellectual and mechanical, would be set in motion. Then and only then the locomotive of Arab awakening would resume its motion upwards. If this is not realised, then we, the Arabs, governments and people alike, can blame only ourselves. Since perfection is an attribute of the Providence only then, a priori, both sides of the coin, i.e., governments and peoples, are guilty, albeit, in different degrees and proportions. Let us hope, then that the process of healing and the recreation of harmony and equilibrium can still be attained. Arabs have no other choice.

Palme successor in trouble over South Africa policy

By Lars Foyen
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson's refusal to impose a binding trade boycott against South Africa, a surprise to many Swedes, has turned into his first political crisis since taking over from slain leader Olof Palme. Sweden, for years one of the most outspoken critics of apartheid, pioneered sanctions against South Africa and has supported the African National Congress resistance movement through the 1960s and 1970s.

There have been calls both from Carlsson's own Social Democratic Party and its opposition to step up a voluntary trade boycott into a legally binding one.

Carlsson, however, has said such a move would be incompatible with international trade agreements signed by Sweden unless it were decided by the United Nations Security Council.

Black-South Africa, leaders Bishop Desmond Tutu and Winnie Mandela have expressed disappointment at Carlsson. "I'm convinced that Sweden's deceased Prime Minister (Palme) would have acted against South Africa's racist government long ago," said Winnie Mandela, wife of the jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, in an interview in the Stockholm daily Aftonbladet, which supports the Social Democrats.

"He is actually destroying the Scandinavian people's fine record," Tutu added in the newspaper, referring to Carlsson and widespread and active Nordic opposition to South African racial policies.

Aftonbladet headlined one front-page story "Carlsson is a coward." During the past week Carlsson has faced demands for an official boycott from newspapers and important groups within his own party, from all other parties in the Swedish parliament except the Conservatives, and from Social Democrats in neighbouring Denmark and Norway.

The storm appears to mark the end of a political honeymoon which began when Carlsson took over Sweden's government the night Palme, Scandinavia's best known politician, was shot in the back and killed Feb. 28.

As he moved from the controls of an emergency government and was formally chosen as Palme's successor, commentators gave the 51-year-old Carlsson high marks in both domestic and foreign policy and he has done well in public opinion polls.

"Palme spoke up clearly so that

everybody understood," Everi Svensson, a leading Social Democrat, said recently in a speech in which he urged his party to impose a boycott. Svensson's statement underlined the difference between Palme's charismatic, emotional style and the cool businesslike manner of his successor, a former vice prime minister under Palme and a longtime party stalwart.

"If Ingvar Carlsson follows GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) instead of human rights, the Social Democrats in Sweden won't be what they were under Palme," Danish Social Democratic parliamentarian Ole Espersen said in a Swedish newspaper interview.

Carlsson, apparently caught off-guard by the boycott calls, felt prompted to interrupt his summer holiday and call a news conference where he reminded critics that Sweden already had imposed a freeze on investments six years ago.

He noted that Sweden had last year cancelled aviation treaties, imposed an import ban on agricultural goods and urged Swedish businesses to voluntarily refrain from trade with South Africa.

Swedish exports to South Africa amounted to a mere 202 million kronor (\$30 million) in the first quarter of 1986, a 37 per cent drop compared with a year earlier.

But Carlsson added that "only a decision by or a recommendation from the United Nations Security Council can lift Sweden's obligations on the trade area as a member of GATT."

He added that "only a decision by the Security Council could make concrete demands on South Africa's most important trade partners and have a chance of leading to a change in South Africa."

Carlsson has told Swedes that on South African issues, his party has "always been there, as promoter, as a place of refuge, as support."

"After one week of confused discussion," he complained in a speech Friday, "these 25 years of conscious and earnest solidarity work now appear in some quarters to have vanished into thin air."

"I have been accused of being passive and insensitive," Carlsson told a gathering of Christian Social Democrats, one of the groups calling for a legal ban. "It was even said that I was a coward."

"Let me just say that during this spring and summer I certainly have experienced intensive and mixed feelings," he said. "But I have never felt myself to be a coward."

Little chance for rapid Sino-Soviet rapprochement

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

PEKING — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for mutual troop reductions is unlikely to bring about rapid improvement in Chinese-Soviet relations after more than two decades of bitter ideological and strategic differences.

China, while commenting on other proposals Gorbachev made in a speech last Monday, so far has had nothing to say about his announcement that Moscow wants to improve relations with Peking and is ready to discuss a "balanced reduction" of ground forces on their long, common border.

China's most important newspaper, the People's Daily (*Renmin Ribao*), carried Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech on its front page Tuesday, but gave top billing to the Soviet leader's pledge to remove six regiments from Afghanistan.

References to China came only in the middle of the article.

The Chinese foreign ministry has said only that it is "studying" the proposals.

The rupture between China and its former ally dates to the late 1950s, when Mao Tse Tung took

issue with what he called Nikita Khrushchev's "revisionist" approach to Communism, his "appeasement" of the United States and Moscow's attempt to dominate the socialist camp.

In 1960, Khrushchev withdrew more than 1,000 technicians and cut off economic aid to China. The two communist parties severed ties in 1964 and in 1969 there were several bloody skirmishes between Soviet and Chinese border troops.

Today, an estimated 1.5 million Chinese soldiers face some 450,000 better-equipped Soviet forces along the 7,200-kilometre border.

Relations improved in 1982, when the two sides started political normalisation talks and limited barter trade was opened at several points along the border.

Bilateral trade rose from \$300 million in 1981 to \$1.9 billion last year, but still falls far short of Sino-U.S. trade, which topped \$8 billion in 1985.

In March, the two sides signed a protocol under which Soviet experts will return after 26 years to assist China's development projects. There has also been a marked increase in cultural exchanges.

But China has made clear that there will be no real progress in

the political sphere until the Soviet Union removes what China calls "the three obstacles."

Those obstacles are the heavy Soviet troop concentration and SS-20 intermediate-range missiles along the border, the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan and Moscow's support for Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

On Wednesday, foreign ministry spokesman Yin Zhizhong indicated that China is not impressed by Gorbachev's announcement, made in the same Vladivostok speech, that he would remove some 6,000 troops from Afghanistan this year.

The key to a settlement of the Afghanistan question, Yin said, is a "prompt and complete" withdrawal of the Soviet Union's estimated 115,000 troops in that Asian country.

Vice Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, head of the Chinese delegation at the biannual Sino-Soviet normalisation talks, said earlier last month that political relations were at a "stalemate."

He said no dates had been set for an exchange of visits by the two countries' foreign ministers, tentatively scheduled for this year.

The last Soviet foreign minister to visit China was Andrei

Gromyko in 1959.

It would be difficult, in any event, for China to compromise on the "obstacles," Western experts believe.

Cambodia, which Chinese officials say is the most important of the three, is particularly sensitive because China arms and helps finance the guerrilla struggle against Vietnam.

China's traditionally close ties with Pakistan rule out changing course of Afghanistan. Although tensions on the Sino-Soviet border have relaxed somewhat in recent years, Chinese rulers since Mongol and Manchu times have been obsessed with the threat of attack from Asia's interior. The Soviet military presence remains Peking's main security concern.

China has also fared well under its policy, maintained since it normalised ties with the United States in 1979, of travelling a middle course on issues dividing the superpowers. Peking is unlikely to veer sharply toward either side.

Vice Premier Li Ping, in a recent meeting with U.S. journalists, gave assurances that "China wants to be good neighbours with the Soviet Union, but that the two countries will never again be allies."

Ancient Monastir prospers in Tunisian president's shadow

By Charles Lambelin
Reuters

MONASTIR, Tunisia — The ancient city of Monastir symbolises the influence of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, still at the centre of political life in his country at the age of 83.

The house where he was born stands facing the sea on August 3 Square, the date of his birth. The family mausoleum with its gold and green domes is magnificent.

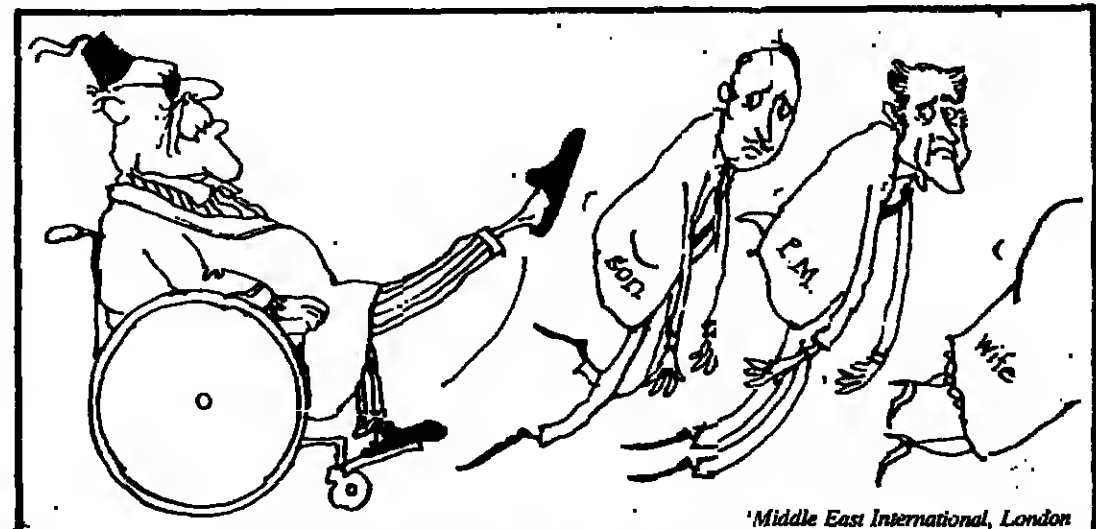
There is a new Habib Bourguiba mosque, a Habib Bourguiba avenue, a Fatouma Bourguiba avenue, after his mother, an Ali Bourguiba street after his father, and a golden statue of Bourguiba as a child in this town south of Tunis.

He spends the summer a short drive away at the presidential palace of Skaïes. Visitors who have seen him recently say he is very active, walking and swimming every day.

He has been receiving foreign dignitaries, ministers and delegations, visiting factories and opening hotels.

Western diplomats said his vitality partly explains his decision to sack long-serving Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, who he held officially to be his heir for six years.

On July 8, he made Economy and Finance Minister Rachid Faraj prime minister, a move generally interpreted as meaning that



'Middle East International, London

Bourguiba wants to exert direct control over the country's affairs at a time of serious social and economic difficulties.

In the last year, there have been many changes in the group of aides whom he chooses and who have his ear, and much intrigue as to who will succeed him, diplomats say.

The chain of events which led to Mzali's downfall can be traced back to last year, when the president dismissed his most faithful adviser, Allala Louati.

In September, Mansour Skhiri, a balding, former governor of Monastir who favours dark glasses, was appointed director of the presidential office. Skhiri now

rarely leaves the president's side, on or off official duty.

As Skhiri rose to prominence, Wassila, Bourguiba's second wife from the Bourgeois Tunis Ben Ammar family and an active supporter of the Palestinian cause, fell into disgrace.

She was finally eased out of the Carthage presidential palace in Tunis and left to live in the United States, diplomats said.

The president's son, 59-year-old Habib Bourguiba Junior, affectionately as "Bibi," lost his job as presidential adviser with ministerial rank after a row with his father.

He sided with his step-mother, Wassila, and had pleaded for

caution in accusing senior officials of involvement in a financial scandal, Western diplomats said.

Mzali's disgrace has not been officially explained, though Tunisian newspapers have begun to hint at reasons.

They denounce his "laxity," probably towards the opposition, praise his successor's probity and say the results of the last six years have been disappointing.

But diplomats said the president's final decision on his successor remains in doubt. Under the constitution, the prime minister automatically takes over as head of state until the next general elections in case of death or incapacity of the president.

Union of former British-ruled states spans continents

LONDON (R) — The 49 nations of the Commonwealth, linked by a common language and the traditions left behind by Britain, mirror the world's political diversity in an increasingly uneasy association.

The independent states that emerged from the British empire represent a mixture of races, cultures and social systems linked voluntarily in a loose union that has no modern equivalent.

But a dispute about ways of combating South Africa's apartheid system of white supremacy has strained the organisation as never before, isolating Britain and casting doubt on the future of the association.

The Commonwealth spans the continents, with 18 member states in Asia and the Pacific, 15 in Africa, 13 in the Western

Hemisphere, and three in Europe, including Britain.

With no other constitutional common bond, all accept Britain's Queen Elizabeth as titular head of the Commonwealth, and 18 still recognise her as their queen.

But some analysts believe the links binding the Commonwealth will inevitably weaken and ultimately disappear as memories of British rule fade.

"I see the Commonwealth as something of a wasting asset," said Peter Preston, a former senior British civil servant with the Overseas Development Administration.

"The leaders nearly all had a link with Britain in the past. But I've always had doubts whether the generation coming after them will have the same commitment."

In the absence of any other role, the Commonwealth has devoted many of its efforts to the fight against racism and apartheid.

Its leaders have formulated agreements banning sporting links with South Africa and have issued joint declarations on racism and racial prejudice and against global poverty and inequality.

But critics say it does little more than provide a global role for the leaders of minor Third World countries who cannot even feed their own people.

"One can see why these African dictators so enjoy international junketings, where they are treated as equals by politicians from proper countries," wrote Bruce Anderson recently in the right-wing British Magazine *The Spectator*.

"Any relief from the problems of feeding their own peoples must be welcome."

"What an opportunity to be noticed and garrisoned on a world platform. What a chance for leaders to sublimate their hatred of colonialism in the majestic opulence of Buckingham Palace," wrote John Cunningham in the liberal newspaper *The Guardian*.

"The Commonwealth boosts their vanity. After all, if you're president of Sierra Leone, what else is there?" he said.

Commonwealth countries range in size from the vast land mass of India with its 690 million people to the tiny Pacific island states of Nauru and Tuvalu, each with 8,000 inhabitants.

The entire population of the Commonwealth is now 1.1 billion, a quarter of the world's total.

The Commonwealth began to take shape when the Indian sub-continent — Britain called it "the jewel of an empire on which the sun never sets" — gained independence in 1947.

First, the new grouping became the British Commonwealth and from 1951, as Britain gradually shed its colonies, simply the Commonwealth, sometimes called the Commonwealth of Nations.

As decolonisation continued, Ghana and Malaysia joined in 1957, Jamaica and Trinidad in 1962, Bangladesh in 1972 and Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) in 1980.

Of the original self-governing dominions of the British empire, Australia, Canada and New Zealand are still members.

South Africa withdrew in 1961 following objections to its racial policies. Pakistan left in 1972 when other Commonwealth states recognised Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan.

Because of its political diversity, the Commonwealth rarely acts jointly but leaders say its influence is often persuasive in the United Nations and other international organisations.

Commonwealth presidents and prime ministers meet every two years. Decisions are taken by consensus.

In between, Commonwealth interests are watched over by a small secretariat in London headed by Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal, a former foreign minister of Guyana.

English is the dominant language.

New perspectives on holography

By R.A.J. Arthur
Spectrum

Holography has been with us for some 38 years. But in spite of its striking three-dimensional images that it produces on screens or even floating in the air, it is still far from achieving its full potential. There are numerous limitations that affect quality, size of image, effective viewing angles and so forth, and the biggest of all is its cost. Yet recent strides in the technology point to its becoming more readily adaptable as a tool for the scientist, the industrialist and the artist, with more and more applications opening up.

Holography is science and art. It affects activities as widely different as aviation technology and advertising. Yet it has been slow to win support of the kind that gives a secure foundation to commercial enterprise.

Is people still ask the same questions as they did when Professor Dennis Gabor first discovered the basic theory in 1948 at the British Thomson-Houston Laboratories at Rugby, in the English Midlands, practitioners insist that the long-predicted, long-delayed revolution really will come. This I find it impossible to doubt after interviewing one pioneer of holography, Nick Phillips, who is Reader in Physics at the University of Loughborough, not far from Rugby. In 1981 the Institute of Physics recognised his work with the award of the Thomas Young Medal, commemorating the 19th-century English doctor who established that light travels in a wave motion with crests and troughs at right angles to the line of travel.

Phillips indicated a dozen points where important contributions are being made. Holography has a many-sided influence on industry, but its aesthetic impact could be greater still. It has to do with light, and light is as much the artist's concern as the physicist's.

Three into two

Pictorial art since the renaissance has mimicked a third dimension with rules based on a knowledge of perspective. The eye co-operates because it has been schooled to accept art conventions, but there are plenty of examples to show how this trained eye can be fooled into swallowing the absurd.

Holography dispenses with the need for an art convention to pack three dimensions into two, operating with total conviction by an ingenious manipulation of light and projecting a third dimension where, in a tactile sense, none exists. The holographic image may appear either in front of or behind the holographic plate, or may protrude from it, partly behind, partly in front. A reflection hologram is illuminated from the front, a transmission hologram from behind by a point source of white light such as a good spotlight. Holographic images created by coherent light from a laser may hover in space as if by some magic.

The final touch of authenticity is the effect of parallax: foreground objects moving realistically against the background as the eye shifts, revealing parts of the scene previously concealed behind them.

Already the achievements of holography are stunning to the eye. They spur the imagination to build palaces of light. But just at this point reality steps in with a sharp reminder that the techniques have hard-edged limitations, affecting quality, size of image, ability to project, effective viewing angles. And the whole thing still is forbiddingly expensive. Yet it is possible to imagine that many flat surfaces in our towns and cities, or inside buildings could become three-dimensional to the eye, that at certain points of the architect's choosing urban space could open on vistas of dream-like subtlety and complexity. Somewhere between this dream of a three-dimensional art world created by light and the holographer's contest with reality it is necessary to search for the true outlines of holography in the future.

Commercial factors are important, even though the technology continues to make rapid strides, for rate of investment depends on public acceptance. Advertisers, the most likely buyers, will take the plunge when they see the public strongly welcoming holography. This in turn depends on still more persuasive demonstration. One important aim in holography is to develop the art of display until people demand holograms as now they demand computer games and home video.

Holography as a true art form has been effectively demonstrated in Coventry Cathedral, where Malcolm Woodward created a series of sculptures on a religious theme. These were then recorded as holograms for permanent display. The company concerned, Advanced Holographics, is an acknowledged leader in the quality of its work. It makes display items that are viewable under white light, and its clients include many leading companies in Britain, France, Germany, Japan and the USA.

With a studio on the fashionable King's Road in London's Chelsea district, Advanced Holographics have played a notable part in making the medium acceptable. In the words of Nick Phillips, "they have produced really quite startling improvements in the display that we created in the very early days. They have achieved very bright displays which overcome some of the difficulties of holography by making the images easily viewable."

Mass production

So far as cost limitations are concerned, there has been significant progress by another firm, Applied Holographics, of Wingham, Essex, in South East England, with its invention of a fast, high-quality mass-production machine for silver halide reproduction, the HoloCopier. The object or master hologram to be copied goes into a chamber in an exposure unit and a pulse of light from a ruby laser makes the exposure. The operation can be repeated at rates varying from one per second to one every six seconds, depending on energy level, while a roll of light-sensitive film is fed through the machine under precise microprocessor control. Runs of many thousands are possible.

Because the pulse of laser light lasts less than a millionth of a second, movement and vibration which are so often the holographer's bugbear become irrelevant. The HoloCopier can be used both for originating master holograms and for making copies. Various adjustments of setting give it flexibility in the type of hologram produced.

The work of Applied Holographics to develop the HoloCopier was carried out in association with Ilford, a photographic firm of Moberley, near Knaresborough in North-West England. Ilford concentrated on improving the chemistry of the recording media: the HoloCopier uses a silver halide-based film, and Ilford's research resulted in a much improved emulsion coated on to an appropriate base to provide a film 240 mm wide and 120 m long. The copy film is mounted on spools for use with a transport mechanism which advances it frame by frame and synchronises it with successive laser pulses.

Though the emulsion for the HoloCopier is only red-sensitive, it is being made available separately in a form sensitised for the blue-green part of the spectrum. It has minimal scatter, high sensitivity, and is optimised for very short exposures. Scatter is cut down by making sure that all particles present in a coated layer are significantly smaller than the wavelength of light.

Scatter has the effect of reducing the contrast of the interference fringes which are the whole basis of holography. The three-dimensional image is made possible by splitting a beam of coherent light from a laser into an object beam, reflected from the object on to the recording plate, and a reference beam. When the two beams meet, the light waves overlap in such a way that either crests and troughs coincide, and the light is amplified; or the crest of one coincides with the trough of another, and they subtract. The complex pattern caused by the interference of the two beams, and recorded by the photographic emulsion, is the diffraction grating of the hologram, and white light shone through (after a suitable development process) will be diffracted in such a way as to create the three-dimensional image of the object.

Storage of holograms

The emulsion for the HoloCopier is only one of Ilford's recent advances. Phillips points to several significant inventions that should be of benefit to everyone involved in making holograms. We may now expect chemical products which will completely stabilise the silver image of a hologram against degradation by light. One problem in storing holograms has been a possible change of state in the silver, which might make them unusable. Archival permanence of holograms is now much easier to achieve through this research by the company.

He adds: "They have also come up with a neat trick for changing the colour of reflection holograms in a permanent and simple way, which will mean that even if your laser colours are rather restricted to, say, green or red, you can make reflection holograms which are in various forms of intermediate colour."

The company's achievement, he said, was considerable over such a

short period. They had also improved the structure of the silver halide recording media. "What they have managed to do is to make superfine grain emulsions which, while being noticeably freer from grain scatter, are rather higher in photographic speed — so this is very advantageous considering the high cost of laser light."

Embossed holograms

To make holography more acceptable by reducing costs, industry today finds a variety of uses for the cheapest and best-known example of the technique: the embossed hologram, most widely used in America, has made a big market impact, notably with images on credit cards and, in publishing, front covers of the National Geographical Magazine.

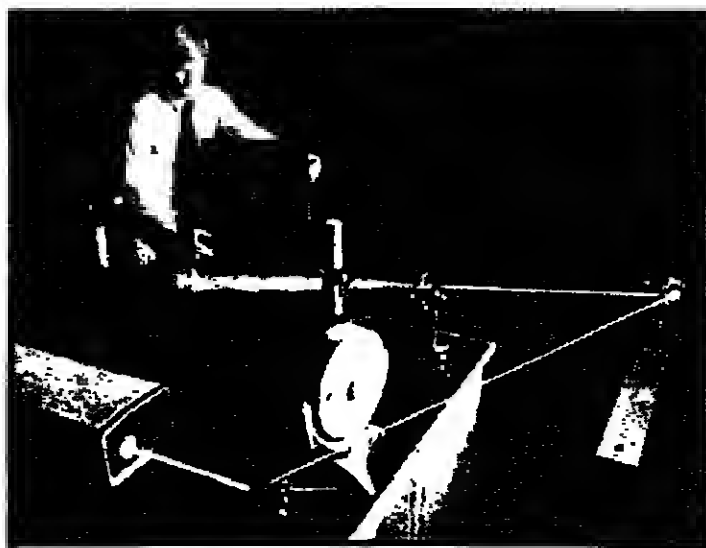
Embossed holograms, mechanically produced by minute indentations on a prepared surface, can give a genuine three-dimensional effect, though with only one plane of parallax, whereas photographic holograms may have both vertical and horizontal parallax.

However, embossed holograms are dazzling in their superiority to ordinary decoration when applied to advertising paperwork or fancy wrappings. They enhance whatever pattern the designer has chosen with an interesting three-dimensional effect. A major practical application is in security paper: by encoding a design, embossed holograms multiply problems for the forger. This kind of security can be extended far beyond credit cards. For instance, the manufacturer of an exclusive perfume, plagued by pirates offering a near imitation in identical wrapping, can produce a wrapping with embossed holograms. The pirate cannot fake the wrapping without resorting to the quite high level of technology attained by reputable holographers, whose integrity is the manufacturer's defence.

photography. The Polaroid Corporation in the USA has developed a technique for forming lenslet surfaces on photographic emulsion. By pressing cups into the surface of a photographic layer, it is possible to organise the grains into a spatially periodic array. This reduces the granularity of the recording medium, and with it the grain 'noise'. The lenslet array has improved the quality of colour photographs.

Nick Phillips points out a further and exciting potential of such lenslet on the recording medium. If they could be made to act as lenslets in the way that the imaging medium of a fly's eye can work, it might be possible to foresee a three-dimensional snapshot camera. Another possible outcome of present American research — in this case by Emmett Leith, one of the two scientists who first applied the laser to holography in 1960 — might be edge-lit holograms, dispensing with the need for a spotlight at the front or back. Either development would have a big impact on public acceptance of holography.

Quite apart from all display applications and the specialised security function, holography is revolutionising a number of industrial processes. For example, holographic scanning for printing applications is being developed by Cambridge Consultants. Laser printers of the first generation incorporate a polygonal mirror spinning at very high speed, but the new printing system replaces this with a single, flat holographic element, shaped like a gramophone disc. A number of independent holographic diffraction gratings round the edge are struck in turn by a laser beam, directed on to the disc from one side and above at an angle of 45 degrees as the disc rotates. This causes a diffracted beam to carry out a one-line scan of the paper, which moves a small distance between scans. It all adds up to a simpler, cheaper method than the usual one. Possible holographic



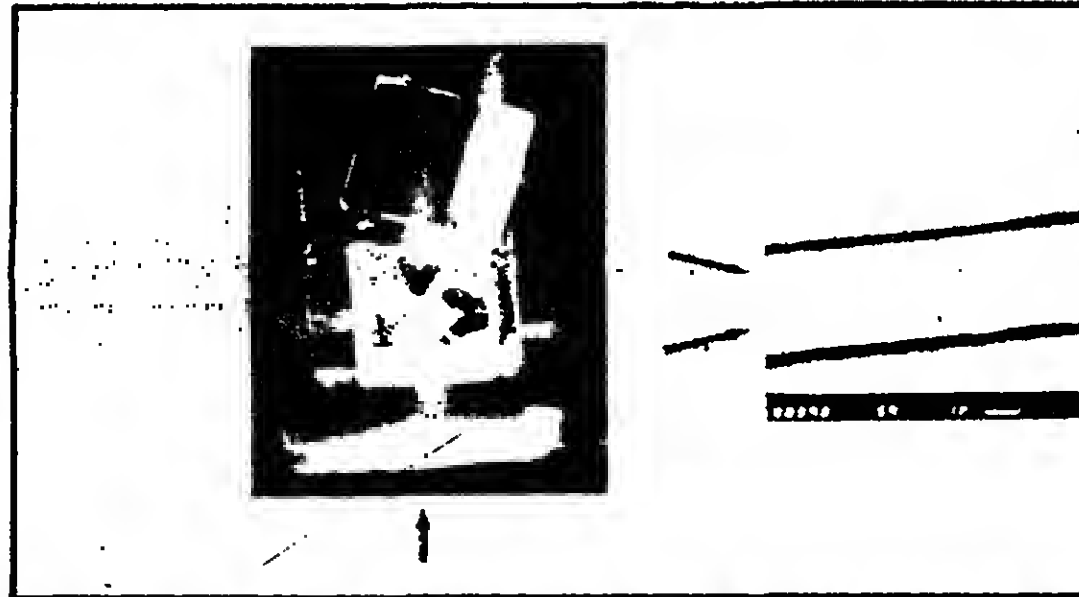
Projecting a hologram outside the danger area in an advanced gas cooled reactor (AGR) station. The fuel elements of the reactor are held in position by stringers, and this test can detect any deformation that may occur in the stringers through repeated expansion and contraction. (Photo by the U.K. Central Electricity Generating Board).

generate from the surface of the recording medium a backward-travelling wave which is going right back to that point again.

"By being a bit clever about it and putting a beam-splitter in the path between the source of light and the reflective material, one can produce a printed page in the direction of right angles, and it avoids therefore the use of the hideously expensive imaging lens that is employed in these sorts of arrangements."

This method has the disadvantage that the mask used is in a one-to-one ratio with the printed image, whereas the lens used in the imaging process can be used to reduce the image by up to ten-to-one; so the mask, produced by electron-beam technology, is rather expensive. But the lens itself, which might cost from £40,000 to £50,000, could be eliminated — a major step forward in imaging technique.

Though work at the Rutherford Appleton has not yet produced a fully-defined sub-micrometre line good enough to convince the micro-electronics specialist, the experiments are being repeated to give a conclusive demonstration; so far, results look promising.



Use of a phase-conjugate (dynamic hologram) mirror to project a high-resolution image for photolithography. The picture shows a mask that is to be projected, with the beam-splitter and the BaTiO₃ crystal that is used to record the hologram.

An image of the mask is projected in real time out of the side of the beam-splitter cube and is recorded in a 0.5-µm layer of photoresist material. Two lines one micrometre wide are shown as recorded, on the right. (Photo by Rutherford Appleton Laboratory).

Data recording

One British firm has achieved exceptionally high densities of information storage for computers with a disc system which, although not strictly holographic, does use a surface relief effect and a laser recording process. P.A. Technology of Royston, South East England, have introduced a new type of disc with a surface thinly coated in a continuous, homogeneous film of platinum and patterned like the eye of a moth; the effect is achieved by laser interference techniques. The disc becomes, like the moth's eye, black and non-reflective. A low-power laser, working as part of the computer set-up, then carries out thermal erasing to produce light-reflecting shiny spots on the disc, so giving a differential means of data recording. Each disc stores 500 megabytes.

British Telecom have made extensive use of holographic security in their phonecard system for calls on a public telephone. Each card allows the user 20 calls. The holograms inside are thermally erased at the time of use, and are not susceptible to re-recording by dishonest people.

Among others developing advanced holographic security is the firm Cambridge Consultants, which has a system going beyond the usual credit card type. On such cards the company can encode specific data about the card-holder in a way that is exceptionally difficult for a thief to decode, let alone tamper with. The same principle works with high-value bankers' drafts and other security paper. The firm is also investigating the application of diffractive optical elements to document security.

Photography

Embossed holograms are produced mechanically, not by a photographic emulsion. The further extension of embossing, however, holds possibilities which could affect the future of

media that can be used with the system are photo-resist, silver halide emulsions and dichromated gelatin (DCG).

Microcircuit lithography

Exciting for the future of electronics is the possibility of making microcircuit lithography cheaper. Printing today's microcircuits with sub-micrometre resolution limits is done by very high resolution optics and UV lamp sources. To use a hologram for printing the image of a microcircuit would offer big advantages.

At the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, near Oxford, Dr. Malcolm Gower and colleagues have experimented with a sophisticated technique known as dynamic phase conjugation. Certain crystals are subject to what is known as the photo-refractive effect. When they are exposed to spatially non-uniform light fields, light-induced changes occur in the refractive index owing to the migration and retrapping of electrical charges. These crystals used as volume holograms (three-dimensional media for holographic recording) can contain information at densities up to 10^{12} bits cm^{-2} , yet have exposure sensitivities comparable with the best photographic emulsions. In dynamic, or real-time holography using such crystals, the 'writing' and 'reading' processes are virtually continuous and simultaneous.

Nick Phillips gave me this explanation: "In simple terms it means that certain recording materials for holography are in fact self-developing, as the interference patterns form without any subsequent processing. Light coming into the medium then images itself and it can, under the right conditions, be literally retro-reflective; so even if a wave arrives on a surface of a complex shape it will in all parts of the wavefront be retro-reflected. Therefore a point-source of light irradiating such a surface will

Reactors

Other important industrial applications of holography are in the inspection of inaccessible or

dangerous domains. At Aberdeen University, Scotland, the technique is being developed for underwater use in inspecting the surfaces of oil-rig supports. Vital sightings to determine whether the support has been buckled or corroded are obtainable in this way.

At the University of Kent, at Canterbury, experiments with optical fibres are assisting another form of inspection. In spite of a tendency of optical fibres to produce awkward phase errors in the light, it is possible to pass the image of a hologram down an optical fibre and then recreate it elsewhere. One practical application is in medicine, to look into inaccessible places such as the ear.

In their research laboratories at Marchwood near Southampton, South West England, the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) have devised a holographic technique for inspecting nuclear fuel elements. The element is raised to an observation port, but kept safely behind a radiation shield throughout the inspection. The technique depends on forming a hologram of the fuel element with the reactor (which is possible without any fogging from the radiation). Backward illumination with a reference beam allows the image to be projected out of the hologram.

It is a real image, and it can be more than a metre in depth. It can be examined out in the air, but is back-to-front. A television camera passes through the image to inspect it. The research is now well advanced, and undoubtedly a workable inspection method has been devised.

A technique known as electronic speckle pattern interferometry (ESPI), a form of holography which discards ordinary recording plates and forms the image of the hologram directly on to the surface of a vidicon, is particularly associated with the name of Loughborough University. The Mechanical Engineering Department there has further advanced its early work in this area and (in association with a private company) is now engaged in marketing the technique, which has many industrial applications.

The increased importance of holography from the educational viewpoint is recognised in a new post-graduate teaching facility at London's Royal College of Art (RCA), to be headed by Nick Phillips and funded by Britain's Department of Education and Science (DES). With extensive laser equipment, it will aim to teach the techniques used in display holography to a fairly wide group of students. Here the approach will be as much artistic as scientific, with emphasis on the use of holography in art and design.

Holograms do not have to be made of real objects; they can be derived by synthesis from flat perspective in conventional photography; for example, a hologram might be obtained from pictures sent to Earth from a satellite. Synthetic holography is a kind of use of computer-generated imagery will play an important part in the RCA's new course. It will provide a three-dimensional visualisation of ideas on the basis of computer-aided design (CAD) rather than model-making of the usual kind.

Nick Phillips believes that the facility will offer an intensely practical course. "The one thing the Royal College of Art does is to teach its students how to earn a living afterwards, and one surefire way of doing that is to make sure you can demonstrate your ideas to other people. If, each time you want to do that, you have to make a model, it gets very tedious, so for the first time we are trying to see the possibility of using holograms to display imaginary data, which is cooked up from a computer-aided design. It will allow a casual viewer to look at a hard copy to see a different image with the two eyes and therefore see a stereoscopic effect, and that's an interesting step."

That might well be said of the whole project, which looks very much like a first step along the road to some still unimaginable future — Spectrum, British Science News.

UNICEF report worries GCC countries

By Dina Matar
Reuters

BAHRAIN — A United Nations study has called for greater efforts by health authorities in Arab Gulf states to bring down a high rate of unnecessary infant deaths.

The study shows that in the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) 65,000 children died last year under the age of five "for reasons which could have been avoided."

The GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — have about 14 million people, a third of them under 15 years old.

The study, by the regional bureau of the United Nations Children's Fund, notes:

"The figures, though much better than previous years, are still too high... they show the need to increase efforts by local and health authorities to prevent diseases and bring down the number of deaths."

Released by the GCC secretariat in Riyadh, the study does not give a breakdown of infant mortality in individual states.

It says most deaths were caused by unhygienic childbirth methods, hereditary diseases, diarrhoea and malnutrition.

And it also blames bad eating habits, illiteracy, inadequate health and educational programmes in rural areas, lack of coordination among government ministries and hiring of foreign health workers.

"Foreign workers do not speak our language. How can they treat the sick?" says the study. "On the other hand, our nationals do not have the necessary qualifications."

The study concedes that the employment of foreigners would have to continue in the short term "but they need to be taught the basics of our language."

The Gulf states, their coffers swelled in the 1970s oil boom,

brought in thousands of health workers from non-Arab countries such as Pakistan, India and the Philippines.

The study laments that "there is also no coordination on childhood issues among GCC states despite the fact they have the same problems and similar cultural backgrounds."

It also says lack of official statistics has been an obstacle to finding causes or solutions to the problem. "Sometimes recording the death of a child takes months," the U.N. report said.

A study by Bahrain's health ministry zoned in on bad eating habits lying behind malnutrition.

The Bahrain study found:

"In Bahrain, 15 per cent of children under six were underweight."

In Oman, malnutrition was found in 42 per cent of primary schoolchildren.

In Kuwait, 70 per cent of children under two were deficient in iron, a mineral vital in the human body.

"Nutrition has been largely neglected in the Gulf and these first studies have come as a shock," says Dr. Abdulrahman Muisaiger, head of Bahrain's health ministry nutrition unit.

Muisaiger, a Western-educated Bahraini, says changing eating habits, mixed in with the oil boom, are causing the problem. Once, a glass of camel's milk and a handful of dates used to supplement an Arab's meal he says. Now with the arrival of American fast food, it tends to be a soft drink and chips.

Muisaiger suggests long-term health awareness programmes to tackle the nutrition problem, but stresses they should be aimed at men as well as women.

"In our society, the man buys food and is the breadwinner and decision-maker of the family... it would be useless to follow nutritional programmes of the West where emphasis is placed on women. The man has to be included," he says.

Refugees flee Third World for asylum in West Germany

By Paul Holmes
Reuters

WEST BERLIN — Thousands of refugees are fleeing conflict and poverty in the Third World to seek a more secure future or temporary refuge in West Germany.

The refugees, many of them Iranians and Lebanese, have poured into West Berlin in the past two months, overloading reception centres and living in emergency tents, steel containers and requisitioned school gymnasiums.

Many say they have paid thousands of dollars to come, often to racketeers peddling forged passports, and to East German, Soviet, Czechoslovak and Bulgarian state airlines for one-way tickets to East Berlin on their way to the West.

"I am a Christian from west Beirut. How do you think I should live there?" snaps one Lebanese standing in the early morning rain with his wife and two young sons in a queue of 600 refugees waiting to apply for political asylum.

"There is no solution, only this way," he says.

Few other families are to be seen among the crowd. Most of the asylum-seekers are single young men — Ghanaians, Turks, Iranians, Lebanese, Pakistanis and Indians.

The recent upsurge in arrivals has made the refugee problem a major issue in the run-up to West German elections next January and prompted plans by the centre-right government for tough new asylum laws to curb the influx.

About 45,000 have arrived so far this year, 45 per cent more than in the same period last year, and over half have come first to West Berlin. The government says the total will reach 100,000 by December and that 200,000 could follow in 1987.

They say they have chosen West Germany because it is the only country in Europe where they have an automatic right to seek political asylum, and Berlin as it is the easiest place to enter because of its East-West division.

"We all know this route in Iran," says Ali, 18, who adds he has fled military service in his country's war with Iraq.

Many of the Iranians have come from Istanbul on 300-dollar flights with the East German carrier Interflug to East Berlin's Schoenefeld airport, where the authorities issue them with a five-mark (\$2.2) transit visa to West Berlin.

One group of eight Iranians told Reuters they had paid \$3,000 to Turkish "human smugglers" in Istanbul for forged passports the racketeers said they should rip up and throw away between east and

west Berlin. "For \$12,000 one of the smugglers will take you personally to asylum in Sweden," one of the group said.

Officials and police say there is evidence of lucrative and well-organised smugglers' rings, some with contacts within West Germany itself.

Members of voluntary agencies dealing with refugees also say some of the arrivals are drugs dealers and prostitutes, who abuse the West German asylum system to enter the country.

But they say statements by government ministers and politicians that the asylum-seekers pose an increasing threat to law and order or are "economic refugees" misusing the "right to claim asylum are exaggerations."

"The majority are persecuted and, increasingly, fleeing civil war or conflict," said Hanns Thomae-Venske, the Protestant church's commissioner for foreigners' affairs in Berlin.

He said the system where refugees could apply only for political asylum was a waste of time for most refugees since they simply wanted temporary refuge.

"The criteria for political persecution have also become so strict that it is virtually impossible to qualify," he said.

The flood of refugees to West Berlin has provoked criticism from some citizens but also acts of charity such as gifts of food, clothing and shelter, according to city officials.

But the latest wave sparked an outbreak of violence between protesting neo-Nazis and a group of left-wingers outside a sports ground where a huge tent crammed with beds had been hastily erected as an emergency shelter.

"It was an isolated incident," city social affairs senator Ulf Fink said. "But we must be careful that in a city like this where one in eight residents is foreign the refugee problem does not set back our efforts at integration."

Most of the refugees will move from West Berlin within a few weeks, but hostels in West Germany are also overcrowded, and many of the asylum-seekers are being sent to a "tent city" on the East-West German border.

The government in Bonn is now proposing legislation to reduce the average time period for decisions on asylum to a year rather than the current three to five and pressing East Germany to close the east Berlin loophole.

Local authorities are also considering how to deport refugees whose applications for asylum are rejected in contrast to current practice, which allowed about 70 per cent to stay.

U.S. heptathlete sends world records tumbling

HOUSTON (Agencies) — American Jackie Joyner leapt to a world heptathlon record in the long jump and went on to break her own world record in the seven-event competition for the second time in 26 days (Saturday) night at the U.S. Olympic Festival.

Joyner, 24, scored 7,161 points to beat the record of 7,148 she established at the Goodwill Games in Moscow.

The 1984 Olympic silver medalist surpassed her Moscow pace in the day's first event, with a long jump of 7.03 metres to better the previous heptathlon world best of 7.01 metres which she set in the Goodwill Games.

Then as her brother Al, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist in the triple jump, cheered her on, Joyner threw the javelin a lifetime best of 30.12 metres.

She needed a time of two minutes 10.55 seconds in the 800 metres, the final event, to break her world record. She got a 2:09.69, her second best time ever in the event.

Her total for the second day, 3,013 points, was the first time 3,000 or more points had ever been scored in the closing three events of the heptathlon.

In other track and field events, two-time Olympian Earl Bell just missed on his second attempt at an American record of 5.91 metres in the pole vault, winning with a best of 5.81. Olympic silver medalist Mike Conley bounded 17.50 metres in the triple jump and U.S. record-holder Tom Petranoff threw the men's javelin 80.68 metres.

Evenly Ashford, the world record-holder in the women's 100 metres, anchored a California team which clocked 42.49 seconds in the women's 400-metre relay.

Carl Lewis, the number one ranked sprinter of 1985, overcame a three-metre deficit to take his team to an apparent victory in the 400-metre relay with a time of 38.52 seconds, but leadoff man Floyd Heard was disqualified for running out of his lane.

Soviet boxers dominated a special dual Soviet-U.S. exhibition, winning seven of the eight bouts.

In diving, Greg Louganis won his 40th national title Saturday, adding the U.S. Olympic Festival 10-metre platform crown to his 3-metre springboard championship.

Louganis has been the world's best diver for years.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

McEnroe to return on Tuesday

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, VT., (R) — John McEnroe, out of competitive tennis for nearly seven months, returns to the Grand Prix circuit on Tuesday as fourth seed in the Stratton Mountain tournament he won last year. McEnroe, three times Wimbledon champion and four times winner of the U.S. Open, is seeded to meet Boris Becker of West Germany in the semifinals. His opening match against fellow-American Brian Teacher on Tuesday will be his first tournament appearance since he lost to another American, Brad Gilbert, in the Grand Prix Masters last January.

Leon Spinks goes down in bar parking lot

DETROIT LAKES, Minnesota (AP) — St. Paul's Rocky Sekorski scored a technical knockout over former world heavyweight champion Leon Spinks 1:43 into the sixth round of a scheduled ten-round bout in a bar parking lot Saturday night. Sekorski, now 18-5, pinned Spinks to the ropes with a flurry of counterpunches midway through the sixth round. Referee Leroy Benson gave Spinks a standing eight-count and when the fight resumed, Sekorski launched in again. It was a matter of seconds before the fight was called. "I thought I hurt him pretty good in the third and fourth rounds too," Sekorski said. "I was just waiting for him to go (down)." Sekorski said it felt good to have beaten the former heavyweight champion, but added, "Of course we all know that Leon's on his way down so that doesn't feel so good. But I can say that I did beat the one-time world champion."

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U.K. team captures Curtis Cup

HUTCHINSON, Kan., (R) — The Britain-Ireland golf team ended 26 years of U.S. dominance of the Curtis Cup competition Saturday by wrapping up a sweet 13-5 victory.

Belle Robertson of Scotland, at 50 the oldest Curtis Cup player in history, made the shot that ensured her side would not lose and Patricia Johnson of Wales, at 20 the youngest player on the British-Irish side, clinched the victory.

Johnson's 5-and-3 victory over Kathleen McCarthy Saturday afternoon gave the British-Irish

team their first win in the biennial women's amateur golf competition in 30 years.

That record of futility meant nothing to Johnson. She won all four of her matches in her Curtis Cup debut.

Before Johnson's clincher, Robertson, playing in foursomes with Mary McKenna against the U.S. team of Kathleen McCarthy and Kim Gardner, had sunk a 10-foot putt on the 18th green to ensure no worse than a tie for Britain-Ireland for the first time since 1958.

Through both days of the

competition, Robertson was invincible on the 18th hole. In Friday's first round, she sank a 25-foot putt on the 18th hole for a 1-up triumph for her and McKenna over McCarthy and Gardner.

Robertson said she felt the way Scottish football spectators have when they took a part of the pitch home from Wembley after beating the English.

None of the current members of the British-Irish team competed in the 1958 draw or the 1956 victory, their last before 13 consecutive U.S. triumphs.

Athletics focus shifts towards Stuttgart

By John McHaffey

Reuters

EDINBURGH — The ill-fated Commonwealth Games athletics programme came to an appropriate end Saturday when Steve Cram was able to complete the middle distance double with the slowest 1,500 metres in a major championship since the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.

Englishman Cram joined Australian Herb Elliott and New Zealander Peter Snell as one of only three men who have ever achieved the double at the Commonwealth Games.

Like Elliott in 1958 and Snell four years later, Cram stood supreme, an athlete at the peak of his powers, and it is doubtful whether any runner in the world could have kept pace with him last week.

But, sadly for Cram and the patient spectators who shivered in Meadowbank Stadium in

appalling weather, the confrontation which had promised to lift the Games above the ranks of the mundane did not take place.

Cram versus compatriot Sebastian Coe in both the 800 and 1,500 was expected to be not only the showpiece of the athletics but the highlight of the Games themselves.

However, after Coe withdrew with a throat infection, the 800 and 1,500 metres became academic exercises and Cram's 1,500 win in three minutes 50.87 seconds merely emphasised the gap between him and the rest of the field.

The mass boycott of the Games had a shattering effect on the athletics programme.

The absence of the Kenyans and Tanzanians robbed the middle and long distance events of the unique excitement the Africans generate and the sprint events were largely second rate after the Nigerian and Caribbean nations withdrew.

Fortunately for athletics fans the boycott did not affect Canada and Meadowbank spectators had the privilege of watching Ben Johnson, the fastest man in the world this year.

Johnson won gold in the 100 metres and 4x100 relay but was frustrated in his quest for three titles when his compatriot Akeem Mahorn stormed to victory in the 200.

The men's 200 remained the only event where an athlete of undisputed world class was defeated.

Cram's team-mate Steve Overt displayed all the tactical acumen and arrogance of old when he won

his first major championship 5,000 metres.

Another Englishman, Daley Thompson, tuned up for this month's European Championships when he won his third Commonwealth decathlon title and immediately became embroiled in controversy when he obscured the sponsor's name on his vest.

Rob De Castella confirmed his return to the top of the marathon tree this year when he became the first man to defend successfully the Commonwealth title and Lisa Martin made it a triumphant double for Australia when she won the women's event.

The revelation of the Games was another Australian, Debbie Flintoff, who won both the women's 400 metres and 400 hurdles and showed at the latter event that she has the talent to challenge the world.

Flintoff plans to run just one more event in Britain before returning home to prepare for next year's world championships in Rome, where she has an excellent chance of winning the hurdles title.

The last word Saturday remained with Cram as attention switched to the European Championships.

"I'm putting myself up for selection for 800 and 1,500 in Stuttgart," Cram said.

"Let's hope that Seb can get himself in shape and we can have the race we should have had here."

"And if Steve Overt is selected for the 1,500, who knows? Then I would be up against Coe and Overt in the same race. That's the ultimate challenge."

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Consists of two floors located between the Fifth and Sixth Circles in Umm Uthaina district. Each floor is independent and consists of three bedrooms, dining, sitting, guest rooms with three bathrooms. Each floor has its own garage and independent entrance. Could be rented as whole or each floor separately.

For more information call 618900 and 812500

TO LET

Two well-furnished apartments adjacent to each other, each is suitable for a gentleman (man & wife), consisting of one bedroom and sitting room with telephone and central heating. Located at Jabal Hussein, near the Water Authority (600 metres from Ministry of Interior Circle).

For further information, please contact Tel: 662467

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

1st floor villa
2 bedrooms, 1 salon, 1 dining room, 2 bathrooms, 1 veranda (9x3), colour T.V., telephone. Grade A residential area in the middle of Fawaz Basha Ranch/Sweleh.

Telephone 846867 (3-5 p.m.)

FLOOR FOR RENT

Consists of two bedrooms, lounge, dining and sitting rooms with garden, garage, central heating and telephone.

Location: Behind Amra Hotel, near San Rock Hotel
Call 814322

FOR RENT

Furnished house. First floor of a villa in Shmeisani with garden. Consists of two bedrooms, with central heating, and telephone.

Annual Rent JD 2100
Call: 663933

A HOME OR OFFICE FOR RENT

Consisting of three bedrooms, two salons, kitchen, utilities, independent central heating, solar heater, telephone. Located on Jabal Lweibdeh near Jamil Shaker School.

Call at the site from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and from 5 to 8 p.m. or call: 625833.

MUST SELL IN THREE DAYS FOR BEST OFFER

1982 MAZDA 929L. A/C, power steering, power brakes, central lock and other options. Customs NOT paid.

Irbid 272110 ext. 2331 (day)
3158 (night)

NEW FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Consists of three bedrooms, L-shaped lounge, salon, dining room, two bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, independent central heating and telephone.

Location: Shmeisani call Tel: 606254

UNFURNISHED HOUSE TO LET (400 sq.m.)

Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, two big salons, living room, verandas, separate central heating, telephone, garage and garden in best location behind Housing Bank Centre in Shmeisani.

Call: 674600

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Ground floor at Umm Uthaina, Al Janoubi, consisting of two bedrooms with utilities and garden.

Call: 814484

TWO NICELY FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

In a two floor family building located between the 4th & 5th Circles - Jabal Amman:

A- Second floor, consists of: large salon, dining room, 2 bedrooms, a laundry room, kitchen and 3 large balconies. Equipped with colour T.V., video, fully-automatic W.M., central heating and telephone.

B- Ground floor, with separate nice garden and car-park. Consists of: Large salon, dining room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, and modern kitchen. With central heating, colour T.V. and telephone. Suitable for office.

Please call: 622162 (a.m.) & 671509 (p.m.)

RESTAURANT CHINE

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahliyyah Girls School
Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

Tel: 638968

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbeque for lunch and dinner FRIDAY

Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

CROWN INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

packing, shipping, forwarding, international moving, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

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CHINESE RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO

Authentic Chinese food
Friendly service
Convenient location
Also take-away service

Open daily: Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight

Location: Near 3rd Circle, opposite to Al-Jah Hospital

Tel: 641093

慕堂餐廳 MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant

The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.
Fully Airconditioned

Take away available
Open daily 12:00 - 15:30
18:00 - 23:30

Wadi Sagra Road - near Traffic Bridge
Amman, Jordan
Tel: 661922

CHINA RESTAURANT

NEXT TO GRINDLAYS BANK

Take away service available

Open daily 11:30 - 3:30 and 6:30 - 11:00

AQABA
Tel: 03-314415

Cinema
CONCORD
Tel: 677420

HOT MOVES
HOT MOVES

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
RAINBOW
Tel: 625155

MEDICINE

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
OPERA
Tel: 675573

SUICIDE OF FLAT OWNER

Arabic in colour
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
Philadelphia
Tel: 634144, 634149

WHITE NIGHTS

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 677148

SCORPION THUNDERBOLT

Performances: 12:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

Dai-ichi reportedly tops banks in terms of assets

NEW YORK (AP) — Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. of Tokyo has surpassed Citicorp of New York as the world's biggest banking concern as measured by total assets, a banking industry newspaper reported last week.

Based on totals as of March 31, Dai-ichi had dollar-denominated assets of about \$207.2 billion, compared with \$175.9 billion for Citicorp, according to American Banker.

Aiding Dai-ichi's rise to the top was the sharp appreciation of the Japanese yen against the dollar over the past year. On Sept. 30 of last year, when the dollar was worth about 216 yen, Citicorp's dollar-denominated assets totalled about \$163 billion compared with Dai-ichi's \$158.3 billion.

On March 31, the dollar equalled about 177 yen. Because the survey converts the assets of Japanese banks into dollars, a rise in the yen against the dollar increases the level of dollar-denominated assets.

The Sept. 30 asset totals are used for all Japanese banks in the American Banker survey. As of Dec. 31, Citicorp had ranked as the world's biggest banker with total assets of \$167.2 billion.

The next three banks in the survey all were Japanese: No. 3 Fuji Bank Ltd. of Tokyo with Sept. 30 assets of \$143 billion; No. 4 Sumitomo Bank Ltd. of Osaka with \$136 billion and No. 5 Mitsubishi Bank Ltd. of Tokyo with \$133 billion.

Sterling weakness forces Ireland to devalue punt

BRUSSELS (R) — Ireland, whose currency has come under intolerable pressure because of the recent weakness of sterling, has devalued its punt by eight per cent within the European Monetary System (EMS).

The devaluation, announced Saturday, was quickly and smoothly agreed with Dublin's partners in the European Community (EC), diplomats said.

It was sterling's weakness in recent weeks, sparked by falling prices for crude oil, which put pressure on Dublin to request a major cut in the value of its currency.

Ireland does about 60 per cent of its trade with Britain and its exporters complained to Finance Minister John Bruton of a frightening loss of competitiveness as sterling tumbled, pushing up the price of their goods in Britain.

Diplomats said the fact that sterling, with the German mark the EC's most internationally traded currency, still remained outside the EMS made the system less stable than it might be.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Uniroyal, Goodrich form new tire company

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — B.F. Goodrich Co., and Uniroyal Inc. have made formal a previous agreement to merge their tire operations in a joint venture that would rival Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., as the nation's second-largest tire maker. The new company, Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Co., is equally owned by Middlebury, Connecticut-based Uniroyal and Goodrich, and will have its headquarters in Akron with original equipment management based in Troy, Michigan. Uniroyal Goodrich becomes the second-largest tire manufacturer in North America and fifth-largest in the world. Annual sales are expected to amount to \$2 billion.

S. Arabia to help S. Yemen development

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia will provide South Yemen with a soft loan of 110 million riyals (\$29.3 million) to develop Aden harbour, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The agency quoted Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khail as saying the kingdom would also build and equip a hospital in Aden at a cost of 45 million riyals (\$12 million) and a housing project for a similar amount. Both projects will be a gift. The kingdom had also shipped 2,000 tonnes of wheat to Aden, he added.

East Bloc reschedules Zambian debts

LUSAKA (R) — The Soviet Union and East Germany have agreed to reschedule a total of \$88 million worth of Zambian debts, Finance Minister Basil Kabwe said. The Zambia Daily Mail quoted Mr. Kabwe as saying after a recent visit to Eastern Europe that the two countries had agreed to provide Zambia with land clearing equipment in return for agricultural produce.

Canadian bank settles Galadadi debts

DUBAI (R) — Royal Bank of Canada has become the eighth creditor of the troubled Dubai trading group A.R.E. Galadadi Brothers to reach an out-of-court settlement over debts, legal sources said. The agreement covers the repayment of 24.13 million dirhams (\$6.6 million) owned by the group and two of its subsidiaries. The Galadadi Brothers have now settled debts amounting to 110 million dirhams (\$30 million) out of a total debt of some 900 million dirhams (\$245 million) owed to 19 banks. Standard Chartered, Toronto Dominion and Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank earlier settled for only 38 to 40 per cent of their dues.

Taiwan to cut textile tariffs next month

TAIPEI (AP) — Taiwan will reduce tariffs on imported textiles and clothing in September, Vice Finance Minister Ronald Ho said Saturday. Mr. Ho said Taiwan would reduce tariffs on most clothing by 50 per cent and on other cloth by about 40 per cent in line with the government's trade liberalisation policies. Tariffs on clothing now average 60 per cent of an item's imported price and those on cloth range between 35 and 40 per cent.

Barclays applies for Wall Street listing

LONDON (R) — Barclays, Britain's largest clearing bank, said last week it had applied for a listing of its shares on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) — which would make it the first foreign bank to be listed on Wall Street. A Barclays spokesman said the bank hoped the listing would take place in September. Under the U.S. Investment Companies Act of 1940, foreign banks must seek an exemption from the securities and exchange commission in order to apply for a listing on the NYSE. The spokesman said the bank's request for an exemption had been granted earlier last month.

ADB aid to developing countries drops

MANILA (AP) — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is giving less money to developing countries, while private sources are providing more and more assistance, bank economists said last week. The ADB report said only 41 per cent of development assistance to the countries came from the bank in 1983, down from a peak of 67 per cent in 1971. Private sources provided 35 per cent of the 1983 loans, up from 22 per cent in 1971, according to the report. The report said the private foreign assistance, making up for some of the drop in ADB loans, had helped improve the economy of less-developed Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Burma, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Jordan Insurance Company stays aloft by distributing high dividends

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Insurance Company (JIC) is currently distributing JD 0.300 per share in dividends after posting a net profit of JD 833,536 during its 1985/86 financial year which ended March 31, 1986.

According to the company's report approved by the shareholders' general assembly meeting held last Thursday, the dividends amounting to JD 330,000 were allocated at a 30 per cent rate of return on JD 1,000 nominal value of each share.

However, the net profit achieved by the company was down by JD 231,471 from last year as the overall revenue fell by 14.33 per cent, totalling JD 4.96 million compared to JD 5.79 million recorded during 1984/1985.

The company attributed the weak performance to hardships being witnessed in the activities of all sectors due to the Iraq-Iran war, the continued fighting in Lebanon and the fall in economic growth in Gulf Arab countries suffering from low oil prices.

JIC added that competitiveness

in the local market was extremely high, especially after the government sharpened its regulations by setting a minimum annual target of "productivity" income for insurance companies.

The only loss that JIC suffered was incurred by the fire department which paid a claim for a risk it had covered outside Jordan. Earning JD 1.1 million in premiums, the net result of the department was JD 29,519 in the red.

All other departments posted profits although none showed any improvement over the results achieved in the preceding year.

The marine department earned JD 0.9 million against JD 1.2 million netting JD 99,590 in income after settling claims which rose by 7.65 per cent.

The car accidents division collected premiums amounting to

JD 2.32 million, JD 181,555 less than in 1984/85 but overall income after claims stood at JD 343,587 down from JD 444,343.

The productivity of the general accidents division was noticeably low with revenues falling by JD 319,373 from one million dinars recorded in the previous year. JIC noted that claims in this section rose to 31.87 per cent from below zero.

The company highlighted its life insurance portfolio saying it holds 459 current policies for a total value of JD 20 million of which JD 17 million belonging to only 18 policies forming "group insurances." JIC invested JD 343,250 of "life funds" in shares and government bonds.

Another major contributor to

High liquidity, reserves

In other general items, the balance sheet shows liquid assets (cash in hand, banks and time deposits) standing at about JD 2.5 million and various reserves accumulating for a total sum of JD 2.3 million.

Finally, and more importantly, the general assembly empowered the board of directors to transfer all or any sum it deems appropriate from retained earnings to be distributed as dividends among the shareholders. The company also adopts a policy of not depreciating the buildings it owns but depreciation is only taken on equipment and other utilities in the premises.

Oman cuts oil prices

ABU DHABI (R) — Oman has slashed the price of its crude oil to the lowest level in more than a decade, emphasising the weakness of world oil prices, industry sources said.

Oman set prices retroactively at the end of each month and told customers that July deliveries would sell for \$8.20 a barrel, 23 per cent below the June level of \$10.70 and 70 per cent below the November 1985 price of \$27.35.

Falling oil prices have already pushed non-OPEC Oman, which depends heavily on oil revenue, to review spending plans and devalue its currency, the rial, by 10.2 per cent last February.

It has also increased oil production to try to compensate for the price drop. Current output is approaching 600,000 barrels per day, compared to a 1985 average of 500,000.

Meanwhile the government of Oman is to set up a central bureau for exchange of shares as a first step toward the establishment of a full stock exchange, the Commerce and Industry Undersecretary Ahmad Macki was quoted as saying Saturday.

No date has been announced for the opening of the bureau, which Mr. Macki said would be established shortly at the commerce and industry ministry in the heart of the new Muttrah district, which is now the commercial and financial centre of the city.

The bureau will deal with the shares of Omani companies, said Mr. Macki adding that it was seen "only as a first step toward the establishment of a fully-fledged stock exchange in the future."

Arabs study steps to counter U.S.-Israel free trade zone

DAMASCUS (R) — The Arab Boycott of Israel Office is considering measures to counter a treaty last year setting up a free trade zone between the United States and Israel, its commissioner-general, Mr. Zuhair Aqeel, said Saturday.

He said the measures would be in "self-defence against the treaty which aims at opening the door for Israel to send its products into

Arab markets where it would be difficult to distinguish them from U.S. goods."

Mr. Aqeel, speaking to reporters at the end of a five-day meeting in Damascus of Arab boycott liaison officers, gave no details.

A final statement by the group said delegates had agreed to lift an Arab boycott on 23 companies of various nationalities, imposed for

dealings with Israel.

Being placed on the boycott list were Sara Lee Corporation of the United States and Canadian Pacific (CP), officials said.

The officials told Reuters that Sara Lee Corporation and CP were among 17 firms placed on the list. The officers earlier agreed not to boycott French car-maker Renault and West Germany's Siemens AG.

OAPEC urges expansion of Arab refining industry

KUWAIT (R) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Saturday called on Arab producers to boost their refining industries so as to get better economic return for their oil.

"Expanding the Arab oil refining industry and diversifying the product range will yield a better economic return than crude oil and free Arab oil exporters from total dependence on crude exports," an editorial in OAPEC's monthly bulletin said.

"The prices of products, in a reversal of role, now dictates crude prices... it is not too late to support the Arab refining industry," the editorial, carried by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) added.

Arab refining capacity now stands at five million barrels per day (b/d), while Arab consumption of refined products exceeds two million b/d and could reach three million b/d by the year 1995, it said.

Figures released by the

10-member group of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Kuwait, Tunisia, Qatar, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates showed its oil output had slumped by 39.2 per cent since 1981, to 10.1 million b/d in 1985 as oil prices dropped.

In Doha, a senior Gulf industrialist Saturday urged advanced countries and international establishments to make long-term investments in the Gulf region, which he said still held opportunities despite a drop in oil revenues.

Sheikh Abdullah Al Mijel, secretary-general of the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) also told a news conference that petrochemical, cement and aluminium industries provided good areas for investment.

Sheikh Mijel called the conference to explain aims of a seminar on investment opportunities and challenges in the Arab Gulf states, due to be held in Vienna from Sept. 2-4.

White House may veto bill on foreign aid

Speakes told a questioner Saturday that the numbers in the foreign aid bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee last month are "substantially below" the administration request. If those figures remain in the measure, he added, "I'm certain the president's advisers would recommend a veto."

The committee, striving to meet Gramm-Rudman strictures, lopped \$1,500 million from the bill. It approved \$12,980 million for economic and military aid to 38 countries and contributions to international lending institutions and the Export-Import Bank. The administration had requested \$15,400 million.

State Department spokesman, Mr. Robert Kalb told reporters that foreign aid levels approved by the committee "are totally inadequate to meet U.S. foreign policy and national security needs" — USIA.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righler Institute

FORECAST FOR MON., AUGUST 4, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is fine for getting a well rounded and well organized arrangement so your basic interests will be on a plane that can run more smoothly in the future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get everything working smoothly at home and tonight don't spend money on expensive pleasure.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle the correspondence that is awaiting your attention. Pay more attention to your mate tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get your practical problems nicely handled since you are thinking cleverly, but take no risks.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Take any health treatments you may need during the day but avoid risky business affairs tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make a plan just how to gain your most desired private aims. Come to the right decision and forget pleasing others.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan how to please any pals who have proved loyal and steadfast with you and gain more good will.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle those outside duties that are important during the day but avoid seeking pleasure this evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get new ideas operating that can make your life much brighter in the future. Take it easy tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Keep busy at personal, practical affairs but remain loyal to the persons who are loyal to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be more successful in a partnership by being ethereal and ethical. Ease your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can accomplish a great deal today, so keep busy occupied at the practical. Take things in stride.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A good day for improving friendly relationships and romantic life. Forget the dreary tasks tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be a fine family member and have much ability at understanding those who are emotional, but should be taught to take greater interest in outside activities for greater success in life. A fine education is important in early youth.

THE Daily Crossword by Albert J. Klaus

ACROSS

- Put "Shirley" in the "tooth"?
- Friend in San Diego?
- Road
- Alde or Arde
- Employer
- Dry oil
- Gambling game
- Not suitable
- Angered
- Washington seamen?
- Sun
- Heirs
- Modern title
- Aunt in Madrid
- Explosive
- Congregated
- in MY
- Synonym
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- DOWN
- Chorus
- Thwarted
- Stall

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. LANA GAFER OTHER
2. ASOB DROE LOOSE
3. WISE UNTERPROSE
4. AIDER DUK VISITED
5. QUISID WILG ARIE
6. A HANISIDIPMERISIO
7. TURMSIDIPMERISIO
8. DUTIE ENA TIE KEN
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Peanuts

I LOVE WRITING

KNOWING HOW TO WRITE IS VERY IMPORTANT

IF YOU CAN'T WRITE, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO TELL SOMEONE THE BAD NEWS?

Mutt 'n' Jeff

MUTT, I JUST FOUND THIS LADY OYSTER DOWN AT THE SHORE CRYING HER EYES OUT!

SHE HAD A DATE WITH A LOBSTER WHO PUT HIS CLAWS AROUND HER, KISSED HER AND THEN SHIFTED TO THE OCEAN.

SHE THEN PUT HER HANDS ON HER THROAT AND CRIED OUT "OH NO! MY PEARLS ARE GONE!"

Andy Capp

ALL RIGHT, KEEP YOUR MONEY!

I'M NOT GOING TO GROVEL, I'VE GOT MY PRIDE, Y'KNOW!

HUH! IT SEEMS TO ME THE PEOPLE WITH THE MOST PRIDE ARE THE ONES WITH THE LEAST TO BE PROUD OF.

DID YOU HEAR THAT? SHE'S TALKING TO A LAD WHO CAN SINK TWELVE PINTS AND STILL FIND HIS WAY HOME.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"I was shaving and I started wondering what I'd look like if I was a polar bear."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LYBUL

TELAH

ROWMAR

SAWURL

Answer here: IN THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEET OWING SPORTY ACCORD

Answer: Regardless of what the orchestra performs, the bass player has to do this — STAND FOR IT

Reagan offers to share SDI with Soviets after 5 years' research

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has offered to share the "Star Wars" missile defence system with the Soviet Union if the project proves feasible after five years of development, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

Under Mr. Reagan's plan, Washington and Moscow would have two years to reach agreement on sharing the system, the newspaper said. If no agreement was reached, either side could deploy its own system after giving the other six months' notice.

Thus, Star Wars would not be deployed for at least 7½ years.

The Post, quoting administration sources, said the president made the offer in his July 25 letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The letter was a reply to one from Mr. Gorbachev a month earlier.

It said the proposal was included at Mr. Reagan's insistence over the objections of some of his advisers.

The White House had no immediate comment on the story.

The newspaper also said the president originally planned to propose that Washington, Moscow, Britain and France hold talks about reducing offensive arms by more than half.

It said he omitted this proposal after Prime Minister Margaret

Thatcher objected that it did not reflect Britain's conditions for entering talks about reducing its nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Reagan's insistence on continuing the development of Star Wars, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), has been a main stumbling block in recent U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations.

The Post said the president told Mr. Gorbachev that the United States would continue to research, test and develop SDI for the next five years.

Mr. Reagan said that if the project was shown to be feasible by 1991, the end of the research period, Washington and Moscow would begin talks on sharing it, the Post said.

Mr. Reagan insisted that the talks should not exceed two years to prevent the Soviets from stalling, the newspaper said.

If no agreement was reached within two years, Mr. Reagan suggested that either side could deploy a Star Wars system after giving the other six months' notice.

The Post said Mr. Reagan told Mr. Gorbachev that the United States continued to favour the principle of 50 per cent reductions in strategic nuclear forces, a principle endorsed at last November's Geneva summit but he was willing to negotiate somewhat smaller initial cuts.

Meanwhile President Reagan's decision to abandon the SALT-2 arms control treaty could cost the United States more than \$100 billion over 10 years, a congressional agency said Sunday.

The report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a non-partisan arm of Congress, agrees with conclusions reached recently by the Centre on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington-based private research organisation.

Both studies are expected to provide added ammunition to arms control advocates who, in the next two weeks, plan to push legislation that would force Mr. Reagan to continue to abide by the 1979 treaty.

The legislation would be added to the 1987 defence bill. Separate versions of the bill are scheduled to come before the House of Representatives and Senate before Congress adjourns on Aug. 15 for a three-week recess.

Mr. Reagan has threatened to abrogate the SALT-2 treaty by the end of the year if there is no

change in the behaviour of the Soviet Union, which he has accused of violating existing arms agreements. Many lawmakers believe that regardless of what Moscow does, Mr. Reagan is determined to break the treaty.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has estimated that if the limits are removed the Soviet Union could have 21,000 warheads by the mid-1990s — 6,800 to 7,400 more than the United States — a robust but not maximum expansion.

"If the United States were to match such an expansion, it would require a huge increase in U.S. forces," the budget office said.

It estimated that the United States would at least have to deploy an additional 867 MX nuclear missiles at a base cost of \$27 billion.

If Washington elected to respond to a Soviet buildup with the procurement of as many as 36 Trident nuclear submarines, the cost would be \$2.6 billion per ship, plus operating expenses, to make a total of more than \$100 billion, the budget office said.

"This study shows the costs to the United States of dropping the deployment ceilings contained in SALT could be mind-boggling," said Chairman Les Aspin of the House Armed Services Committee.

Sri Lankan elections set for January

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A government newspaper reported Sunday that elections will be held next January for nine provincial councils that are key to the president's plan to end ethnic strife in Sri Lanka.

The Sunday Observer's report marked the first time a date has been announced for the elections. part of a peace plan announced on June 25 by President Junius Jayewardene to meet demands for greater autonomy by ethnic Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of 16 million.

The Tamils have long accused the majority Sinhalese of discrimination. While moderate Tamils have sought increased autonomy in the northern and eastern provinces where most Tamils live, militants have been waging a guerrilla war to carve out a separate Tamil nation in those two areas.

Attacks by Tamil militants and reprisals by government troops — who are mostly Sinhalese — have left more than 4,000 dead in three years.

Mr. Jayewardene's peace plan calls for the Tamil rebels to lay down their guns in exchange for restructuring of the country's system of government. He proposed the creation of elected councils in each of the country's nine provinces that would be given authority over land settlement, education and law enforcement, currently responsibilities of the central government.

The Sunday Observer said legislation needed for Mr. Jayewardene's peace plan would be presented to parliament in late September or early October.

The Press Trust of India news agency, in a New Delhi-dated report Saturday, said draft legislation to create the nine Sri Lankan provincial councils had been finalised with the help of Indian constitutional experts. The draft will be taken to Colombo by leaders of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) for talks with Mr. Jayewardene beginning on Aug. 16, the agency reported.

American forces hold Mideast war exercise

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, California (R) — A pool of reporters, flown to southern California under military security, watched combined U.S. forces train for possible Middle East action this weekend in the Mojave Desert.

The exercise was marked by two accidents. Three crewmen were killed when their helicopter crashed in California and one soldier was killed by a demolition explosion in Utah. No further details were available.

The 13 reporters from news agencies, television, radio, newspapers and magazines, were part of a pool set up after the 1983 Grenada invasion so news media could cover the early stages of U.S. military actions.

A Pentagon-appointed commission recommended creation of the pool as a result of press protests that the news media were kept off the Caribbean Island for the first 48 hours.

The reporters watched units of the army, marine corps, air force and navy, operating jointly under the U.S. Central Command, take part in an aerial invasion of a desert area meant to simulate conditions in the Middle East.

The Central Command, which includes 400,000 troops from 100 bases in the United States, was set up in 1983 to replace the Rapid Deployment Force which the Pentagon organised to back up former President Carter's pledge to protect Middle East oil fields.

The exercises are held every two years in the United States and on alternate years the command joins Middle East countries

including Egypt in exercises in the Middle East.

The 10-day exercise spanning eight states but concentrated in the Mojave Desert cost \$22.8 million.

Marine General George Crist, commander of the Central Command, told reporters his forces had vastly improved sealift and airlift capability.

"It is no longer the paper tiger that critics say it is," he said. "This tiger has bone, muscle and sinew."

"We are trying to improve our coordination on this whole thing because one big, welded-together unit," he said.

Gen. Crist, who took part in the Grenada invasion, said he wished reporters had accompanied troops then because of evidence he said was found of Communist infiltration.

He said the press would not have been sceptical about the wisdom of the operation if reporters had seen first-hand the evidence of Soviet and Cuban military power on the island.

Gen. Crist said by the time the reporters arrived most of the evidence had been taken by U.S. troops as souvenirs.

The invasion pool was the fourth in a series that began in March 1985. The first of the series was regarded as unsuccessful when reports that the pool had been activated leaked out.

Navy Captain Steve Taylor, who organised the latest press exercise, said: "It was successful because secrecy was maintained and we brought the press in without hampering the military operation."

Few American blacks available for Pretoria post

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan appears eager to send a black ambassador to South Africa, but there is a scarcity of blacks in important foreign policy-making jobs, U.S. government records show.

As of last December, nine of the 613 top State Department career positions were filled by blacks. Of the 4,023 full time career foreign service officers, only 250 were blacks.

"There are just too few at the top levels," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Clarence Hodges, who is in charge of the department's equal employment opportunity commission office. He also said the commitment to increasing the black role in the State Department has waned since Mr. Reagan took office in 1980.

From 1977 to 1980, when Cyrus Vance was secretary of state, there were 12 black ambassadors. Now there are six.

Interest in the racial makeup of the U.S. foreign policy establishment was heightened earlier this month when officials said Mr. Reagan wanted to dramatise his support for black rights in South Africa by appointing Robert J. Brown, a black businessman from North Carolina, as ambassador to Pretoria.

After Mr. Brown withdrew his name from consideration there were reports the administration would turn to a black diplomat, Terence Todman, the U.S. envoy to Denmark.

Also mentioned as a possible candidate has been Allan Keyes, assistant secretary of state for international organisations and the highest ranking black in the department. No decision has been announced.

Mr. Hodges said Secretary of State George Shultz was committed to increasing the number of blacks in the department. At the same time, he said, "there are a lot of other items on the front burner."

He also said that "a great majority of blacks in the foreign service feel that the system is not totally fair" in permitting them to get to the top of their profession.

That system includes the importance of "corridor gossip" in deciding who gets good jobs and participation in a social scene that many blacks do not find comfortable, he said.

Beyond the issue of fairness is the impact on foreign policy. Donald McHenry, former ambassador to the United Nations, has said that the Reagan administration would be more sensitive to the problems of Third World countries if more blacks were in the foreign service.

U.S. Representative George W. Crockett said there is a danger of projecting a "lily-white" image to the world.

He called it "an image that is detrimental to the United States, to our Department of State and to U.S. foreign policy" and said "it relies on a small, increasingly out-of-touch group to formulate policies that isolate us from the needs of the Third World and, indeed, from our traditional allies."

Aubrey Verduin, one of six foreign service officers who have filed a discrimination complaint against the department, said blacks don't get into the top jobs because most of them are in administrative and consular positions.

"Those are important functions, but it's the economic and political officers who do the most interesting work and who more often make it into the more important jobs," Verduin said.

The department's statistics show that 61 per cent of all the foreign service officers are in economic and political specialties, but blacks hold only 32 per cent of them.

Conversely, 68 per cent of the blacks hold administrative and consular jobs, while only 39 per cent of the total force works in these branches.

Ortega offers peace proposals to Reagan

CHICAGO (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said he wants to negotiate a peace treaty with the United States, begin talks with the Vatican and invite U.S. President Ronald Reagan to his country.

Mr. Ortega proposed an eight-point peace plan during a speech at the headquarters of a Chicago-based civil rights organisation. He said the proposals would be delivered to the U.S. government soon.

"Nicaragua is under attack by a foreign power called the United States," Mr. Ortega said through an interpreter at a news conference after his speech.

The United States supports the contra rebels who are fighting the Nicaraguan government.

In his speech Saturday Mr. Ortega said his government had not discriminated against the Roman Catholic Church or tried to stifle criticism by closing down the daily newspaper La Prensa.

Mr. Ortega said the newspaper was shut down because it was aligning itself with the nation's enemies in a time of war.

He also said religion is thriving in Nicaragua despite what he called "legal problems with some Catholic bishops." Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega was expelled from the country recently.

Other points in Mr. Ortega's

plan include Nicaragua's willingness to:

— Begin discussions immediately with the Vatican on issues of church and state

— Begin discussions with the bishops conference of Nicaragua, with the possibility of creating some sort of ecumenical arbitration system.

— Resume peace talks within the Contadora framework, with an aim of signing a Central American peace treaty by Sept. 15. The Contadora Group was formed by Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama to negotiate an end to conflicts in Central America.

— Reconsider the closing of La Prensa if the owners "break ties with those who direct and finance aggression in Nicaragua."

— Begin negotiations for a treaty of peace and friendship between the United States and Nicaragua.

— Establish a demilitarised zone in Central America, with joint military patrols along borders with Costa Rica and Honduras under the auspices of the United Nations.

Mr. Ortega has been in the United States for a week making appearances to advance the cause of his Sandinista government and to call for an end to U.S. support of the contras.

FBI probes charges that senator gave secrets to Chile

NEW YORK (AP) — The FBI is investigating whether Sen. Jesse Helms or one of his aides passed sensitive American intelligence information to the Chilean government, the New York Times reported in Sunday editions.

The newspaper cited congressional and administration officials as saying the inquiry focused on charges that the Chileans were tipped off about a covert American intelligence gathering operation.

Sen. Helms, a vocal critic of the U.S. State Department's policy toward Chile, told the Times neither he nor his staff provided any classified material to Chile. He said he was not aware of

the inquiry.

The officials told the Times that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence asked for the investigation after reviewing evidence from the State Department that there had been a leak of information to Chile, possibly by Sen. Helms, a Republican from North Carolina, or one of his staff members.

Sen. Helms while visiting Chile last month criticised the U.S. ambassador for attending the funeral of a U.S. citizen who was burned to death during anti-government demonstrations. State Department and White House officials defended the

Hundreds of Chernobyl victims may die of cancer

TELAVIV (AP) — Dr. Robert P. Gale, a U.S. doctor who treated victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, said Sunday hundreds and perhaps thousands of survivors may die from leukemia and other cancers caused by exposure to radiation.

"We may see cancers as soon as two or three years after exposure," said Dr. Gale, 40, of Los Angeles, who arrived here after a two-week visit to the Soviet Union during which he saw Chernobyl patients in Moscow and Kiev hospitals.

Dr. Gale, an expert on bone marrow transplants from the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, said leukemia was likely to be the first cancer to appear among the 100,000 people who were within 30 kilometres of the reactor site. But he said it may take others, such as lung cancer, 30 years or more to develop.

Based on the experience of Japanese victims of the U.S. atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Dr. Gale said radiation would increase significantly the incidence of cancer, which today kills about one in three Americans.

"There have been some estimates in the press of tens of thousands (deaths from cancer)," he said in an interview. "These are clearly wrong. It will be a much

lower number. It may be in the hundreds or (a few) thousands, something like that."

There may also be a danger to unborn children, both those in the womb at the time of the April 26 disaster and those who will be conceived in the future. "Genetic abnormalities may be apparent already. We haven't begun those studies," said Dr. Gale.

Soviet Union is expected to present data on radiation levels at the nuclear power station and in the nuclear cloud created from the meltdown at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that starts on Aug. 25 in Vienna.

Dr. Gale, who has travelled to the Soviet Union three times since the nuclear accident and toured Chernobyl, said the information would be helpful in calculating the danger to the evacuees.

Dr. Gale said offered the Soviets the help of a 10-nation group of scientists who met last month in Los Angeles to formulate suggestions about follow-up health studies of the 100,000 evacuees, who are now scattered throughout the Soviet Union.

"We offered the Soviets far-reaching areas of collaboration that involve studies of cancer, genetic abnormalities, and birth defects," said Dr. Gale.

Heavy fighting reported in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Heavy fighting has been reported between Afghan troops and rebels in several parts of the country, with each side claiming to have inflicted big losses on the other.

The exiled Hezb-I-Islami Party, one of seven rebel groups making up the Western-backed guerrilla alliance, said in a statement Saturday night that it attacked 13 government posts in Logar province on July 25.

It said two of the 13 posts were wiped out and an unidentified number of Afghan and Soviet troops either killed or captured. Moscow sent troops to Afghanistan in December 1979 to back Kabul's Communist government and has since built up a force of some 115,000 men in the landlocked country.

It announced a partial withdrawal of some 7,000 troops last week in a move welcomed by Pakistan, which allows the rebels to operate from its territory, but rejected by the United States as inadequate.

The Hezb-I-Islami statement said the guerrillas went on the offensive again on July 27 and 28 in Logar, about 25 kilometres south-west of Kabul, destroying five tanks and seven lorries.

The official Bakhtar News Agency of Afghanistan has also reported fighting in Logar, saying government troops clashed with guerrillas in the Mohammad Aghah area, killing 40 of them and capturing their weapons.

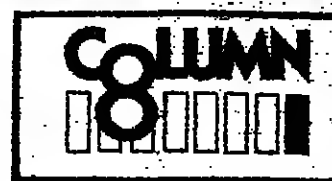
Western diplomats in Islamabad said last Tuesday that heavy Soviet and Afghan armour and aircraft movements suggested that a major offensive has begun against the rebels in Logar province.

The Hezb-I-Islami statement said guerrillas last Thursday ambushed a joint Soviet-Afghan convoy in the northern province of Badakhshan near the Soviet border, killing some 800 Afghan and Soviet troops. Twenty rebels were killed and 35 injured.

If independently confirmed, the statement's casualty figure would be the biggest suffered by government and Soviet troops in a single battle in many months.

The official Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad Saturday, reported successful anti-rebel operations in the Baghlan and Wardak provinces north and west of Kabul respectively.

It did not say when the operations took place.



Child prodigy spoke first words at age of 4 months

MOSCOW (R) — A Moscow newspaper has described a child prodigy who spoke his first words at four months, conversed with ease at one and read fluently when he was two. Seryozha Grishin, 12, has just passed the entrance examinations for Moscow State University's physics faculty, the youth daily Moskovsky Komsomolets has said. He writes poems and fantasy stories and plays music in his spare time, it said. "In general I find adults much more interesting. It is difficult for me to talk with people of my own age about things which don't interest me," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Fashion goes to the dogs

NEW DELHI (R) — Fashion is going to the dogs in India's movie capital of Bombay. A local firm has bought a licence to collect the 150 dogs which die daily in Bombay's teeming slums and elegant shoreline boulevards and will soon start selling dogskin ties and handbags, the Press Trust of India reported.

Court rules against prostitutes seeking disability pay

ROME (AP) — A prostitute forced out of work by an accident is not entitled to damages and disability pay equivalent to what she made on the job, Italy's highest court ruled Saturday. The court of cassation, saying that prostitution is a "morally illicit activity," ruled that the prostitute could only claim compensation based on a housewife's estimated income of 600,000 lire (\$428) a month. The ANSA news agency said the case involved an unidentified Florence prostitute, who was seriously injured in a car accident six years ago and could no longer ply her trade. The woman, now in her 50s, asked her life insurance company to pay her damages and disability pay commensurate with what she earned as a prostitute, the agency said.

Newly wedded couple separated by stuck elevator door

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (AP) — Darlene and Ron Cook had barely finished exchanging wedding vows when they were separated. Fortunately, they were quickly reunited when a maintenance man tried to open the doors of an elevator where Mrs. Cook had been stranded. After the ceremony in the shaded courtyard at the Anne Arundel County Courthouse, the wedding party entered the courthouse and Mrs. Cook and her daughter by a previous marriage entered the elevator. "I was waiting to get on, but the doors shut before I got a chance," Cook said. As firefighters and maintenance personnel tried to open the stalled elevator, a crowd gathered to reassure the bewildered bridegroom. After 35 minutes, the door was forced open, the bride and groom embraced and the crowd applauded.

Illegal T-shirt makers outstrip state production

MOSCOW (R) — A group of Latvian youths who ran an underground T-shirt firm to meet consumer demand for Western-style clothing outstripped competition from the state clothing industry, an official Soviet newspaper said Saturday. Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya said the youths, who painted non-Russian slogans and affixed Western labels on Soviet-made T-shirts for sale on the black market, had received jail terms of up to five years. It said their T-shirt firm had received police protection in various cities of the Baltic Republic of Latvia. "The competitive capabilities of the T-shirt firm, consisting of two professional swindlers and one normal worker, left far behind an experimental state industrial enterprise," the paper commented. It was referring to a branch of the state clothing industry created to produce "artistic accessories" to meet demand for articles such as jeans and T-shirts. Western-style clothing is popular among Soviet youths and sells for inflated prices on the black market, particularly if it bears a foreign label.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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USE THE KNIFE

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 1084
♥ 64
♦ AKQ107
♣ AK

WEST
♠ 5
♥ 1092
♦ 9854
♣ 87842

EAST
♠ EQ7
♥ AKQJ87
♦ 3
♣ QJ10

SOUTH
♠ A852
♥ 53
♦ J82
♣ 953

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♣ Pass Pass
4 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♣
4 ♦ 4 ♦ Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣.

Just because the defenders are trying to do horrible things to you does not mean that you have to submit meekly to their nefarious schemes. Stand up and fight.

We understand the frustration that led East to double four spades. However, it is not a sound tactic at this vulnerability, even at duplicate. Unless North has taken leave of his senses, the best East can hope for is a one-trick set. He should simply sit back and take his

medicine. West led the ten of hearts. East overtook with the ace and shifted to his singleton diamond. East's villainous plot was obvious to declarer — the defender was returning a singleton diamond and hoping for a ruff. Even with all hands on view, it is not easy to see how that can be prevented, since West's nine of hearts is an entry. At the table, however, declarer found a fool-proof method, as the cards lie, to thwart the enemy's plans.

He won the diamond in dummy, cashed the aching of clubs and then led the jack of spades. East was forced to cover. Declarer won the ace and then delivered the coup de grace — he led the nine of clubs from hand!

When West could not play a club higher than the nine, it was all over. Declarer discarded dummy's remaining heart loser and communication between the defenders' hands — a club trick he had not anticipated, but he had no way to get to his partner for a diamond ruff.

No matter what he returned, declarer would be able to win, cooed a trick to the master spade and claim the rest of the tricks. All declarer lost was one spade, one heart and one club!

Malaysian polls set to return Mahathir as premier

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad's National Front coalition looks set to win the general election, political analysts say.

But the country's seven million voters are not likely to give it the landslide win it enjoyed in 1982 as its image has been tarnished by financial scandals, hints of corruption and a poorly-performing economy.

In the capital, tropical sunshine attracted early clusters of Malays, Indians and Chinese to polling stations Sunday, but rain was forecast for later in the day, prompting Mr. Mahathir's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) to buy some 2,000 umbrellas just in case.

The prime minister himself cast one of the early votes in the north east at the start of the first voting day on the country's western peninsula.

Polling started Saturday in the jungle regions of East Malaysia's Sabah and Sarawak states, where helicopters, speedboats and jeeps

were Sunday bringing votes cast in remote tribal villages down to coastal counting centres. The East Malaysia vote turnout was about 60 per cent.

The election will create a new 177-seat parliament and 11 of the country's 13 state assemblies. The National Front has already won six parliament seats unopposed.

Mr. Mahathir's 13-party, multi-racial coalition is being challenged hard by the predominantly Chinese Democratic Action Party (DAP) and by the Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS), which wants to ban pop music and alcohol and demand more conservative dress in a country where kissing in public is frowned upon.

It is the seventh general election since Malaysia became independent from Britain in 1957 — and the shortest.

The campaign which ended at midnight Saturday lasted only a week, but time enough for walls, derelict cars and trees to be plastered with the National Front's blue scales of justice

symbol, the red rockets of the DAP and the PAS party's white moon on a green field.

Polling has been largely incident-free although a squabble broke out Saturday night in an Islamic Party stronghold to the north east of the country.

PAS supporters marching to a prayer meeting scuffled with supporters from other parties and police were called in to cool tempers. The meeting was held later without incident.

Political analysts said the National Front coalition was not likely to find itself as popular as it was in 1982 when it reaped 132 of the 154 seats then available in parliament.

Fresh in voters' minds is a 2.5 billion ringgit (\$1 billion) loan scandal at the state-owned Bank Bumiputra Malaysia, embarrassing a government which came to power promising a clean, efficient and trustworthy administration.

A key question is whether Mr.

Mahathir can keep his power grip by winning the two-thirds parliamentary majority he needs to amend the constitution and so dilute strong opposition.

Opposing parties could get up to 45 seats, political analysts forecast, 20 for PAS, about 15 for the DAP and at least eight for independents.

The splintered opposition has acknowledged it will not be able to form the next government of Malaysia's 16 million population, but still wants voters to cast black marks against Mr. Mahathir, arguing that he has arrogantly misused his large majority to force through unpopular new laws.